

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Ms. Price

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our Language Arts classroom and share my expectations for the class. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any problems, questions, or concerns. I am always happy to meet with students and parents. I have very high expectations of you and will expect you to do your best at all times. We will be reading multiple novels per quarter, some as a whole class and some independently. We will continue to study all parts of speech, new vocabulary words and have extensive practice with writing. This year will be challenging, so be prepared to work hard, do your best and have fun!

I request that both students and parents sign and return the last page of this letter indicating that you have read the procedures and agree to cooperate with them.

Ms. Price  
CourtneyPrice@ssas.org

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## **Textbooks, Novels and Films:**

*Some novels and films may have mature content with themes relevant for our students.  
Please feel free to pre-view the material.*

The textbooks that we will use include the following:

- 📖 *Holt Elements of Literature, First Course*
- 📖 *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar, Communication in Action, Bronze Edition*

The novels that we will read may include the following:

- 📖 *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- 📖 *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
- 📖 *The Fighting Ground* by Avi
- 📖 *Sarah Bishop* by Scott O'Dell
- 📖 *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
- 📖 *Max the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
- 📖 *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
- 📖 Four additional choice novels for each quarter's book reports (200 pages or more!)

The films we may view (in excerpt or in full) as a class include, but are not limited to:

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*Pleasantville/ iRobot*  
*The Mighty/ Little Women*  
*Jurassic Park/ The Orphan Trains*  
*The Sandlot /West Side Story*

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*The Twilight Zone/ Civil War Journal*  
*The Hunger Games/The Crossing (A&E)*  
*Remember the Titans*  
*Ken Burn's The Civil War*

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## Supplies

- ✎ Box of tissues, Roll of paper towels
  - ✎ Spiral 3-Subject Notebook w/ perforated edges
  - ✎ Black dry erase markers
  - ✎ Two packs white printer paper
  - ✎ Duo-Tang Folder w/pockets (One per quarter!)
  - ✎ Loose-leaf Notebook Paper
  - ✎ Pens (blue or black ink only for class, purple to grade with)
  - ✎ Colored pencils or markers
  - ✎ Note Cards (two packs)
  - ✎ Large disposable Ziplock-type bags to carry class novels and flashcards. (1 gallon size)
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## Grading

Assignments have the following point values:

### **Tests and Book Reports** **35%**

If you are planning on being absent the day a project is due, **YOU MUST HAND IN THE PROJECT A DAY EARLY**. Any projects that are late will receive half credit. Any major test must be made up the following Friday (silent reading day) and the student must request it.

### **Quizzes** **30%**

Expect quizzes on materials covered in class. Students should go over their notes nightly to prepare for unannounced pop quizzes. Students must make up all missed quizzes on the following Friday or at lunch.

### **Class work** **15%**

It is imperative that students take notes on literary terms, grammar definitions with examples, and writing samples. Students will also have periodic exercises and group activities in class. All class work must be in the appropriate section of the spiral 3-subject notebook.

### **Homework** **15%**

All homework must be neat, on loose-leaf paper, unless otherwise noted, and in pen. Anything turned in late will receive half credit, until the third day. After the third day, it will be graded as a 0%. Homework is always posted on the board.

### **Bell Work** **5%**

Each class period will begin with Bell Work, which will be posted clearly on the board. Students must begin Bell Work immediately after writing homework assignments in the Agenda.

E= Exempt- You do not have to make it up.

X= Absent or Unfinished- **MUST** be made up, or will turn to an “F” / ZERO at the end of the quarter.

Students should **keep everything** handed back for the entire quarter.

**If you are absent:** You are responsible for all make-up work. You must ask. It is your responsibility.

You have the same number of days you were absent to make up work. (Ex. 2 days absent = 2 days to make up). It is your responsibility to check the assignment calendar and/or ask your study buddy to see what you missed.

**All major assignment/projects that are assigned at least 3 weeks in advance MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE DUE DATE EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT THAT DAY!!!** If you know you are going to be absent, you must turn the project/assignment in EARLY.

### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

1. Take care of your business before class (drinks/restrooms). Passes will only be issued for emergency situations.
2. Bring **two** (working) writing instruments—don't disrupt class to sharpen pencils!
3. Enter classroom quietly and sit in assigned seat.
4. Write homework in Agenda.
5. Begin Bell Work immediately.
6. Wait for further instructions from teacher.
7. If you finish work early:
  - work on another assignment or
  - read a book quietly.
8. Teacher dismisses you at the end of the period, not the bell!

### **RULES**

1. Respect teacher, other students, and classroom equipment
2. Follow directions the **FIRST** time they are given
3. Remain in your seat at all times unless given permission to get up
4. Remain quiet during class unless given permission to speak – voices should always stay at a low volume
5. Bring all books and materials to class
6. Come to class ready to work and with a good attitude

### **CONSEQUENCES**

- First Offense: The Look or Verbal warning
- Second Offense: You owe me a handwritten copy of the classroom rules.
- Third Offense: You owe me an essay with a parent signature.
- Fourth offense: Morning Detention!
- Fifth offense: County referral.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT STEPS CAN BE OMITTED IF AN OFFENSE IS SEVERE ENOUGH!**

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Other Expectations/Procedures:

**Silent Reading:** These days will be announced ahead of time, and **students are responsible for coming to class with a book to read on that day**. Students may check out books from the classroom library (when available) ahead of time or bring a book of their choice from home.

We try and keep interesting, readable novels on our shelves. Some novels may have mature situations or themes that you may not want your child reading. Please preview them! Please keep in mind that it is the parent/guardians responsibility to approve what the student checks out of the classroom library.

If a child checks out a book from the classroom library, he or she is to follow the procedure for checking out novels. Please see the check out sample at the end of the syllabus. Students are responsible for the novels, and any missing novels will be charged to the student that checked them out.

**Reading Corner:** There is a reading corner in the classroom where students can relax while reading. Students may only use the reading corner with permission from the teacher.

**Perfume/ Cologne/ Hand Sanitizer/ Body Spray:** Students are not permitted to use these items in class. Students should not spray said items on themselves directly before coming to class. *Many students and teachers have allergies and this interrupts the educational process.* Please be considerate of others and apply these products only at home.

**Quieting the class:** Students will observe the “Give Me Five” procedure. Teacher will stand in front of the class with hand raised. Students will focus on teacher and follow the 5 steps:

1. Eyes on speaker
2. Quiet
3. Be still
4. Hands free (put things down)
5. Listen

**Assignments:** All assignments and homework will be posted with a due date on the Homework/Assignment Board in the classroom. Students are responsible for checking this board daily and writing assignments in their agenda book. Papers handed in without names and numbers will be discarded. Even if your child does not have assigned homework, they should spend at least 10-20 minutes a night reviewing the concepts and vocabulary taught in class that day, or 20-30 minutes reading their book report novel.

**Team News:** Please keep in mind that you should check [www.ssas.org](http://www.ssas.org) for the weekly Team News. While I try and keep everything as up to date as possible, there are instances where the schedule may be off. **Please note that your child will/should change their agenda if this occurs.** Team News is subject to change, but it is an invaluable tool that you should use to keep up to date with your child’s LA class.

**Text Books:** SSA+S prefers that you use the online text book. The website and login information will be handed out to your child in LA class, and written in their agenda.

Should you need a hard back text book, they are available via parent request. We also have text books on CD-Rom. Should your child check out a text book/ CD-ROM and misplace or lose it you will be held responsible for the replacement cost.

**Bathroom:** Students should use the restroom before or after class EXCEPT for emergencies. If a bathroom pass is needed, student must fill out Agenda and bring it to the teacher. The student is also responsible for signing out in the binder by the door.

**Tardy:** Students will be marked tardy if they are not **in their seats, working** when the bell rings. Being tardy to class three or more times equals an automatic detention.

**Donations:** Donations for the classroom are always welcome! These can include used/new novels, markers, colored pencils, construction paper, Sunday comics, magazines (for creative projects), etc. Please see Edline for the teacher wish list.

**Contacting the teacher:** I can be contacted at the following email address: [CourtneyPrice@ssas.org](mailto:CourtneyPrice@ssas.org). I try to answer emails within 24 hours. If you email me on the weekend, please do not be alarmed if you do not hear back from me until Monday. **I would greatly appreciate an email within the first week of school so that I have your contact information handy. Please email me as soon as possible with your student's name and period in the subject line.**

**Paper Heading Example:**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| ⓪ |  |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |

|   |
|---|
| First Name Last Name<br>Student Number<br>Class Period<br>Date<br>Quarter |
|---|

|   |
|---|
| <b>Any papers handed in<br/>without names and<br/>numbers will be<br/>promptly discarded!</b> |
|---|

|   |
|---|
| Joe Student<br>#15<br>P.4<br>8/19/2011<br>Q.1 |
|---|

**Please practice here!**

|                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Name _____         | Name _____         | Name _____         |
| Number _____       | Number _____       | Number _____       |
| Period in LA _____ | Period in LA _____ | Period in LA _____ |
| Date _____         | Date _____         | Date _____         |
| Quarter _____      | Quarter _____      | Quarter _____      |

# SAMPLE

(Please read carefully)

## **BEHAVIOR CONTRACT SHEET**

### **SSA+S**

**Directions: Take home to complete.**

**Parent signature is required.**

**Due the next school day--no exceptions!**

**Failure to complete will result in a detention EVERY day until turned in completed with parent signature!**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your name) understand that my behaviors were not appropriate in class today.

These behaviors include:

\_\_\_\_\_

- 1) I will take responsibility for the way I act toward others and the way I behave in class.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- 2) I would like to prevent the behaviors that may get me into trouble. \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I will replace my bad behaviors with the following good behaviors:

\_\_\_\_\_

As a **consequence** for inappropriate behavior, *the student must write an essay (minimum of one page, on a separate sheet of notebook paper) addressing the following questions:*

- 1) What did I do that was inappropriate?
- 2) Why is that behavior inappropriate?
- 3) What should my consequence be?
- 4) What can I do differently next time?
- 5) What will happen in the future if I choose not to act appropriately?

The essay must be legible, and it must be signed and dated by the student. Parent signature on this sheet is also necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# SAMPLE

## Library Book Check Out Page ~ Ms. Price

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Period in LA/TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Information about the book:  
(All located on the front label)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Library Book Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ISBN \_\_\_\_\_

Price of the book \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By checking this book out, you agree to take care of it, and return it in the same condition. If the novel is lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, you agree to pay the cost to replace it.

When you return the novel, please throw this page away.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE TO CLASS ALONG WITH  
THE MOVIE AND NOVEL PERMISSION SLIP.**

DUE \_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please send a <b><u>HARD COVER TEXT BOOK</u></b> home with my child.<br/>The replacement cost is \$78.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please send a <b><u>CD-ROM TEXT BOOK</u></b> home with my child.<br/>The replacement cost is \$15.00</p> |
|---|

I look forward to an exciting year with all of you!

Please fill out the following page and turn it in by Friday.

I have read Ms. Price's rules and expectations and agree to cooperate with them. I understand that if I choose to break a rule, there will be consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read Ms. Price's rules and expectations and agree to support them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

**Reminder-**  
Please email [CourtneyPrice@ssas.org](mailto:CourtneyPrice@ssas.org) with your child's name and LA period in the subject line!