

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

**Ms. Sciarrino**

*Welcome! I am very happy and excited to be your 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher. We are going to have the best year. I have the highest expectations for each of you. I look forward to watching you grow and become the best you can be.*

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. Sciarrino  
ErickaSciarrino@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
-  *The Fighting Ground* by Avi
-  *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

The films we may view as a class include:







*Pleasantville*  
*The Mighty*  
*Little Women*

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*Jurassic Park*  
*The Molly Maguire's*  
*The Sandlot*  
*West Side Story*

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## **Supplies**

-  Spiral 3-Subject Notebook w/ perforated edges
  -  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)
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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%**

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. Students have three days to make up missed work. After the third day, it will be graded as a 0%. Homework is always posted on the board, as well as the Team News. There may be a date each quarter that any and all late work will be due. After that date no late work of any kind will be accepted.

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## **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.

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**If you are absent:** You are responsible for any make-up work. 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 a Behavior 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!**

### **REWARDS**

- ❖ Praise/ Smiles from your teacher!!!
  - ❖ Stickers
  - ❖ Grammar Game Days
  - ❖ Movie Days
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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 ahead of time or bring a book of their choice from home. Please keep in mind that it is the parent/guardian's 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. Students are responsible for the novels, and any missing novels will be charged to the student that checked them out.

**Perfume/ Cologne/ Body Spray:** Students are not permitted to use perfume, cologne or body spray 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 will be discarded.

**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.

**Donations:** Donations for the classroom are always welcome! These can include used/new novels (age appropriate), 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: [ErickaSciarrino@ssas.org](mailto:ErickaSciarrino@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 in the subject line.**

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**BEHAVIOR CONTRACT SHEET**

**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**SSA+S**

**Directions: take home to complete.**

**Parent signature is required.**

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE TO CLASS

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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. Sciarrino'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. Sciarrino's rules and expectations and agree to support them.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail