

# Language Arts 7

Students will read narrative and informational text while analyzing their structure and elements. Using the writing process, students will compose various paragraphs as well as a research essay. Students will learn and apply comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, grammar and usage in the context of improving their reading and writing skills. This course is designed to continue the development of language arts, to reinforce and expand on paragraph writing, and to have students read short stories and novels for structure and literary analysis.

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- I. Course Description: Michigan Common Core Standards
    - A. Writing
      - 1. Paragraphs – Evidence Based Writing
      - 2. Narrative
      - 3. Note-taking
      - 4. Letters
      - 5. Essays – Persuasive, Compare/Contrast, Research
      - 6. Grammar Usage in Writing
    - B. Vocabulary
      - 1. Part 1 received on Friday, due Tuesday for completion
      - 2. Part 2 received on Tuesday, due Friday for accuracy
      - 3. Quiz on Friday
    - C. Reading/Literature
      - 1. The Language of Literature – Holt McDougal
      - 2. Skill Strategies
      - 3. Study Skills
      - 4. Genre Study – fiction and informational
      - 5. Author in April
      - 6. Independent Reading –**Students are expected to be reading independently throughout the year at home. We will also provide time in class for students to be reading, responding, and reflecting on the literature they have chosen.**

Identified below are the literature selections that may be used during this course. In addition to providing you with the title and author of each selection, a brief description of the book is provided. If you have any questions about these literature selections, please contact me so that we can discuss the selections. I will also be glad to talk with students and/or parents who would like the opportunity to make an alternate selection

## D. Novels - possible selections

MS *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

Sixteen unlikely people and potential heirs to millionaire Sam Westing's 200 million dollar estate are brought together to compete in a mysterious game to discover who among them murdered him.

Grades 6-8

MS *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Dickens' classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, the miser who learns the true meaning of Christmas through visits from the Three Spirits, is inspiring and heart-warming for people of all ages.

Grades 6-8

MS *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland. Grades 6-8

MS *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Jonas experiences many changes as he reaches his 12<sup>th</sup> year in life. His utopian society isn't as perfect as it seems. Grades 6-8

E. Hart Writing Standards

1. All rules of capitalization are followed.
2. End punctuation is correct.
3. All sentences are complete thoughts.
4. The question is embedded in the answer.
5. Priority words are spelled correctly.
6. Correct format is used for final product.

(For example: typed with proper margins, written in ink, paragraph structure, etc.)

II. Rochester Community Schools provides all necessary materials and supplies for curricular classes. Parents who wish to supplement these materials and supplies for their student in this class may consider purchasing the following:

- Pencils/erasers
- Red Pens for Revising and Checking Work
- Blue/Black Pens
- Colored Pencils
- 1 inch, 3 ring binder
- Notebook paper – loose leaf only
- Dividers for English only – labeled Reading, Writing, Grammar, Resources
- Highlighters
- Sticky Notes
- Composition notebook

III. Expectations

1. Be prepared – have materials, textbook, and reading book every day
2. Listen and contribute
3. Respect for everyone is a MUST
4. When you enter class, you are prepared for learning (completed homework, supplies in hand).
5. All assignments will include your full name, hour, and date in the upper left hand corner.
6. All school rules must be followed. This includes our school policy on gum, and the acceptable technology usage agreement.

IV. Participation

1. Class participation is important to classroom success. The following goals will help you achieve that success.
  - a. Come to class prepared.
  - b. Use your agenda.
  - c. Stay on task and behave in a non-distracting manner
  - d. During discussion times, listen to the speaker.
  - e. Respect others, their space, and their property – this includes the classroom.
  - f. Follow directions
2. Our school operates in the reminder system. One verbal reminder will be given per student per class. The second reminder results in a Reminder 2 written form. If the student misbehaves again, a Reminder 3 will be issued, resulting in a visit to the office.

- V. Late Homework
1. When you have been absent, it is your responsibility to complete any work that has been missed. Please review the district's policy.
  2. Use your agenda for classroom assignments.
  3. Late Assignments- Any work turned in late will be reduced.
- VI. Grades
1. Point values will be given to daily assignments, tests, and projects based on the focus, difficulty of assignment, and accuracy.
  2. Percentages will be averaged and grades given accordingly to the Rochester Schools grading system.
  3. Parents may use the MyRCS system to check their students' grades. Progress reports will not be sent via email.
- VII. Vacation Policy
1. Please check the Rochester Community School calendar and plan vacation accordingly.
  2. Students who miss work because of vacation will be expected to make-up work when they return to school. It is not always possible to send work with the student.
- VIII. Use of Film
1. The film version of several texts or genres may be used throughout the year, including the following films: *A Christmas Carol* (1984, TV Version); *A Carol Christmas* (2003, TV Movie); *October Sky* (1999, PG); *Paperclips* (2004, Documentary), *The Giver* (PG-13).
- IX. Field Trips
1. Meadowbrook production of *A Christmas Carol*
- X. Academic Honesty
1. We expect academic honesty in all class work. Cheating will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: talking at any time during a test or quiz, copying another student's work, having notes or books open during a test or quiz when not authorized, looking at another student's work during a test or quiz, or presenting another person's work as your own (plagiarism). Any form of cheating will result in a consequence of loss of credit at the teacher's discretion.

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