



Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Honors ELA7

Mrs. Bess

Teacher Contact Information

Email: albess@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Phone: 256-774-4695 Ext. 84236

Classroom Digital Platforms

Webpage Link: <https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/domain/3348>

Distribution List Link: <https://forms.gle/ZeRiaYFvh9wFTCuq7>

Schoology access codes will be provided as requested.

Textbook Information

McGraw-Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion - This text will be used as a supplemental resource. Additional online platforms will also be used to support our learning in this class.

Required Novels

All Honors students are required to provide their own hard copy of each novel. **Please do NOT read these until instructed to do so.**

Flipped by Wendelin van Draanen (summer reading)

I am Malala (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafezi

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Students will read ONE of the following texts for our literature circle unit:

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (1991 version or movie version- no copies from before 1991)

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Matched by Allie Condie

The Selection by Kiera Cass

Course Description

7th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment that requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students must read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. Grammar and writing are also learned and practiced at and above grade level to prepare students for 8th-grade Honors Language Arts. Standards for this class are based on the 7th Grade Language Arts Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. These standards are focused on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. The reading standards will require students to read and analyze fiction and nonfiction texts to determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine the author's craft, and support these findings with textual evidence. Students will be guided through the research and writing process to produce writing in the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes, along with guiding and implementing the Madison City writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary. In addition, students will engage effectively in various collaborative discussions and adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, along with building on and responding to the ideas of others. Outside reading and summer reading are required.

Course Objectives

By the course's end, students will independently and analytically read fiction and nonfiction texts at and above grade level. They will identify and analyze literary devices, central themes, and the author's craft with strong textual evidence. Additionally, students will demonstrate advanced writing skills, producing sophisticated narratives, expository pieces, and persuasive essays. They will engage in the writing process at and above grade level, preparing for 8th-grade Honors Language Arts. Guided instruction will develop their research proficiency, utilizing the Claim-Data-Commentary approach to construct compelling arguments. Students will actively participate in collaborative discussions, adapting speech

	to various contexts and tasks. They will demonstrate strong listening skills and thoughtful responses, fostering effective communication. The course fosters an accelerated learning environment, requiring independent work in class and at home. Students take responsibility for engaging with at and above grade-level texts, completing required outside reading and summer reading. These objectives align with 7th Grade Language Arts Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, providing a challenging and enriching experience for academic and professional growth.												
Course Outline	Unit 1: Summer reading Unit 2: Short stories Unit 3: <i>The Crossover</i>/Poetry Unit 4: Spooky stories/"The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" Unit 5: <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Unit 6: Rhetorical appeals/irony Unit 7: <i>I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)</i>/Informational Texts Unit 8: ACAP Prep Unit 9: Myths Unit 10: Literature Circles: Dystopian Literature <i>*This is subject to change.</i>												
Classroom Expectations	1. Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, Mrs. Bess, and the room. 2. Be in your seat and working when the bell rings. 3. Be silent and listening when someone else is speaking. 4. Follow directions the first time they are given. 5. Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class. **All Madison City and Journey Middle School expectations and rules will be followed at all times.**												
Progressive Discipline <i>(JMS Policy)</i>	All progressive discipline will correspond with the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct regarding Class I and II offenses. Class III offenses are a direct office referral. • Warning • Conference with student with parent notification • Parent Contact • Detention • Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and III offenses---Consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.												
Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation) <table> <tr> <th colspan="2">Assessment Point Ranges (New for 2025-2026)</th></tr> <tr> <th>Assessment Type</th><th>Point Range (60%/70% of Grade)</th></tr> <tr> <td>Semester Exams</td><td>100-120 Points</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unit Tests and Exams</td><td>65-100 Points</td></tr> <tr> <td>Quizzes</td><td>10-65 Points</td></tr> <tr> <td>Projects/Essays</td><td>50-100 Points</td></tr> </table>	Assessment Point Ranges (New for 2025-2026)		Assessment Type	Point Range (60%/70% of Grade)	Semester Exams	100-120 Points	Unit Tests and Exams	65-100 Points	Quizzes	10-65 Points	Projects/Essays	50-100 Points
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Late Work Policy	Students present in class on the day of instruction are expected to turn in all in-class and out-of-class assignments on time.												

	Late work will be accepted up to 3 days after the initial due date, with a deduction of 10% each day it's late. Late work will not be accepted after 3 days. Students must email the teacher upon submitting late work in order to receive credit.
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students are permitted to make up work, tests, and other assignments, activities, etc., when absences are excused. Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit previously assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absence(s) must be made up within three school days after returning to school. However, for extended excused absences when homebound services are not necessary, the teacher may grant additional time, but not to extend beyond two weeks past the return to school. It is the joint responsibility of student and parent to ensure a student makes up work following excused absences. Teachers may alter assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., as necessary to ensure an accurate evaluation of the student's performance after an excused absence. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences.
Technology	Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices are not allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the teacher's individual discretion. **Madison City policy is followed regarding the FOCUS Act. No personal devices are to be used in the classroom.**
Electronic Communication Device Policy	Wireless Communication Devices A. Definitions 1. Instructional Day – • When school is open and in session; • During class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods; • Any time that students are required to store their Wireless Communication Devices under the Student Code of Conduct, or other school rules; or • Any other time, students are instructed to store their devices by school staff. 2. Wireless Communication Devices – Any portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device, including, without limitation: • cellular telephones • tablet computers • laptop computers • pagers • gaming devices • smart watches • earphones or headphones (Air Pods, ear buds, over the ear headphones, etc., whether wireless or not) B. Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are prohibited from bringing Wireless Communication Devices into school buildings and onto school grounds, except in compliance with this policy. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any Wireless Communication Device brought onto campus by a student. C. Storage of Devices– At all times during the Instructional Day, students who possess a Wireless Communication Device on any campus or in any school must turn the device off and store the Wireless Communication Device off their person in a locker, car, backpack, purse, gym bag, or other storage location approved by school administrators. This storage requirement is subject to the exceptions set out in subsection D below. D. Prohibition on Use; Exceptions – Students are prohibited from using, operating, or possessing a Wireless Communication Device during the Instructional Day, except under the following limited circumstances:

	• The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan; • The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; and • The use, operation, and/or possession occur during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions. E. Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such reading, examination, and inspection shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation. F. Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct. G. Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy.
Cheating/Plagiarism	A student who cheats will not receive credit for the work in question. If any other student has cooperated in cheating, that student is also considered to have cheated and will not receive credit. Cheating students will also be subject to the consequences in the disciplinary consequences in Section XXII of this CSC. Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to: (a) copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying and submitting it as your own (b) failing to quote and/or list appropriate citations for material derived from published sources (including the Internet) and identifying and submitting it as your own (c) the use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class (d) any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own.
Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	Madison City Schools acknowledges that technology is ever-changing and has a tremendous impact on our global society, local community, and classrooms. Artificial intelligence (AI), including generative forms of AI, is becoming more a part of our everyday lives. It is our responsibility to educate and train students to utilize AI in an ethical and educational way. Therefore, Madison City Schools is not banning the student or teacher use of AI, but each student will need to be aware of the limitations and guidelines of its usage: a. Madison City Schools student email accounts and Chromebook access to specific open AI software, such as ChatGPT, are blocked due to data and security concerns. b. Any misuse of AI tools and applications, such as hacking or altering data, is strictly prohibited. c. Teachers may allow the use of AI for curriculum purposes. Access to specific websites will be granted on an as-needed basis, adhering to specific data and privacy guidelines regarding age restrictions and usage. d. College Board and Dual Enrollment college and university classes may have additional restrictions and limitations regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence. e. Students who use AI software with a personal device and/or personal credentials should do so at their own risk, acknowledging that each platform is collecting various forms of data. f. Students must acknowledge the use of AI in any capacity related to their schoolwork, including text, images, multimedia, etc. The use of AI could be subject to the Academic Dishonesty Policy. h. Students should acknowledge that AI is not always factually accurate, nor seen as a credible source, and should be able to provide evidence to support its claims.
Turnitin Notice (ELA Classes only)	The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a

	database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively-skills essential to all academic work. Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers can view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.
Materials & Supplies	Loose Leaf Paper Loose Leaf Graph Paper 1 - One inch three-ring binders Dividers (Bellringers/Reading/Writing/Grammar/Vocabulary) Assorted Highlighters Pens/Pencils Sticky notes School Issued Chromebook Extra Chromebook Charger Headphones/earbuds with auxiliary jack (no wireless)
Homework	Honors students will be required to read assigned novels outside of the classroom in preparation for in-class work, quizzes, and writing assignments. Homework is rarely assigned and will be an extension of work in the classroom to better assist students in meeting classroom objectives. Students are encouraged to study for tests/quizzes as homework and read outside novels as well.
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	Please complete and indicate your understanding and agreement with the course syllabus. This will also serve as my distribution list sign up. You may use the QR code or the direct link here: https://forms.gle/u2GauVQxSPpavRmC6 