

7th Grade Honors English Language Arts Syllabus: Periods 1,3,4,5,6

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Course Emphasis & Curriculum

This year, our middle school English Language Arts program will use the Wit & Wisdom curriculum. This knowledge-rich curriculum challenges students to read and study award-winning fiction and nonfiction texts, famous works of art, videos, photographs, and more. These texts awaken and expand students' curiosity. Wit & Wisdom students also learn about compelling topics such as the five senses, outer space, the Great Depression, and more. Through their work with these topics and texts, students hone their abilities to read challenging texts and to write and speak clearly, logically, and effectively. Wit & Wisdom students build strong knowledge and skills.

Students will explore essential ideas across literature, history, art, and science, building deep understanding and strong communication skills. You can find more information about Wit and Wisdom at their website: <https://greatminds.org/english/witwisdom>.

Class Expectations

We will be creating an intellectually safe, supportive, and rigorous classroom environment. Everyone is expected to be kind and empathetic to individual students and their circumstances. This means we will:

1. arrive/log in on time, prepared to learn, collaborate, and contribute
2. treat others and property with respect at all times
3. be attentive and focused
4. not keep the teacher from teaching or the students from learning
5. be on task and on topic, keeping only academic tabs open during class time
6. have no food, gum, drinks (except water bottle)
7. no other electronic devices, including cell phones, smart watches, wireless earbuds, etc., will be on or out during class time
8. Chromebooks should be used for academic purposes only

Required Materials

Students should always arrive in class prepared to learn. Students will need:

- **Functioning and Charged** Chromebook
- Language Arts Tab in a 3-ring all-subject binder
- 1-Subject spiral notebook
- Module Workbook
- Current Novel
- Pencils, black/blue pens, highlighter, colored pencils or crayons, small pencil sharpener, notebook paper
- Please reach out if you require any supplies.

Novel Studies

The department plans to teach approximately 5-6 novel studies during the year, and these will be supplemented by reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary assignments. Possible novels that we will be teaching are:

Class Novels:

Module 1

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman
Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess by Richard Platt
The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer

Module 2

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne & James Houston
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac

Module 3 (time permitting)

Animal Farm by George Orwell

All books will be provided by the library for students to check out and return.

Academic Grade Categories:

Standards-Based Grading

All work in this course will be graded on a 0-4 scale based on the Common Core State Standards

Assessments 90%

(Essays, Projects, Quizzes & Tests)

4 - Exceeds expectations

3 - Meets expectations

2 - Approaches expectations

1 - Below expectations

Practice 10%

(Homework, Classwork, Participation)

4 - Fully completed

3 - Mostly completed

2 - Half completed

1 - Very little completed

Grade Scale	Letter Grade	Infinite Campus
3.6 to 4.0	A	90% to 100%
3.4 to < 3.6	A-	85% to < 90%
3.2 to < 3.4	B+	80% to < 85%
3.0 to < 3.2	B	75% to < 80%
2.8 to < 3.0	B-	70% to < 75%
2.6 to < 2.8	C+	65 to < 70%
2.2 to < 2.6	C	55% to < 65%
2.0 to < 2.2	C-	50 to < 55%
1.7 to < 2.0	D	42.5 to < 50%

Citizenship Grades

Students are graded on the following categories according to the Adams Citizenship Rubric:

Citizenship, Behaviors, Attendance, Tardiness, Work Habits, Participation & Responsibility.

If students have differing grades among the categories listed, they will earn the lower grade..

Outstanding

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Unsatisfactory

Excused Absences: Homework Assignments and Tests

If a student has an excused absence, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to acquire the agenda for the time missed. The STUDENT must also initiate makeup work and make an appointment during tutorials to make up missed assignments/tests. FAILURE TO DO SO, BY THE STUDENT in a timely manner will result in a 0 for the assignment/test missed. Students will have one school day for each school day missed to make up assignments.

Plagiarism

There is a ZERO policy for plagiarism at Adams Middle School. The only way to improve as a reader and writer is to practice, which requires doing your own work. Any plagiarism will result in consequences according to the [school policy](#) on the Adams Website. This includes working together on assessments that are meant to be individual, using AI (Artificial Intelligence) or other internet sources to do your writing for you, copying others' work, not citing sources when you use others' ideas, or recycling work from previous years. If you are unsure if something is dishonest, ask!

Teacher Support & Communication

I highly encourage student advocacy. I am available in person during tutorials for extra help, questions, or concerns, as well as before or after school by appointment. The weekly agenda will be posted on Ms. Medina's Adams Middle School website and Schoology. PowerSchool will be used as the main method of communicating grades. It is important that students (and parents) regularly check the Portal for updated grades and reach out right away with questions or concerns.

Please keep this syllabus for your reference. Student and parent/guardian will need to sign the last page and return it no later than August 22.

Student First and Last Name: _____ Period: _____

STUDENTS:

I have read and understand the policies addressed in the syllabus.

By signing this contract, I choose to participate in my education by taking responsibility for myself and my actions. I will put my best effort into my work, come to class prepared to learn and contribute, and I will treat my classmates, teacher, and myself with respect. I understand that if I am not contributing to a positive classroom environment, I will earn consequences.

Student signature: _____

PARENTS:

In order to better understand stories, concepts, and themes we come across this year in the Wit & Wisdom Curriculum, students will watch district-approved clips to support the curriculum. In order to support the Common Core State Standard of comparing a movie to a novel, I will be previewing possible movie showings to ensure the content is appropriate. If a movie is shown, a separate permission slip will be provided before the viewing as a class.

Classroom Library:

Students will have access to a diverse classroom library including various cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles. I would appreciate your help in monitoring your child's choices for independent reading. Feel free to communicate if your family has specific restrictions.

Parent/guardian name (please print): _____

Parent/guardian signature : _____

Parent/guardian phone number: _____

Parent/guardian email: _____

Does your student have internet access at home? Yes / No

Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about your child's learning needs?