

**English Language Arts
Grade 7 Course Syllabus 2023-2024
League Academy of Communication Arts
CHALLENGE – CREATE – COMMUNICATE!**

Teacher: Ryan Lynch

Room Number: #710

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Parent Portal (grades, attendance, assignments) – must obtain a username and password from the guidance office for initial access.

At League Academy...

Our mission is to prepare students to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society through rigorous, arts-focused, standards-based instruction.

This course is designed for student success. Through arts integration, student centered, and learning focused strategies, students will receive optimum instruction of the 7th grade South Carolina and Greenville County ELA educational standards. As per the Greenville County School District, the course is organized into curricular units ranging from thematic units, units based on research and writing, genre studies, and text exposure. Writing areas include argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative.

Course Description

This course will be split into 6 units throughout the school year, focusing on various themes and critical thinking skills. The units are as follows:

1. **Unit 1: Reality Check** - What can blur the lines between what's real and what's not?
2. **Unit 2: Take Control** - How do actions define us?
3. **Unit 3: The Terror and Wonder of Space** - Is space exploration a daring adventure or a dangerous risk?
4. **Unit 4: Inspired by Nature** - What does it mean to be in harmony with nature?
5. **Unit 5: Game On!** - How do games impact our lives?
6. **Unit 6: Change Agents** - How can changing the world change you?

Course Objectives

- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills through reading and discussion.
- Enhance writing abilities across various formats, including narratives and informative texts.
- Foster collaboration and communication skills through group projects and presentations.
- Engage with diverse texts and media to understand different perspectives and themes.

Required Materials

- **HMH Into Literature 7th Grade Textbook- Provided**
- Composition Notebooks
- Something to hold paper- binder or folder
- pencils
- Chromebook

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on:

- Class participation and engagement
- Unit assessments (summative and formative)
- Projects and presentations
- In-class assignments

This class will follow the guidelines for grading and student work set by Greenville County Schools and League Academy

Redo/Retake Policy

Students may request a retake for any MAJOR assessment in the quarter. To do this students must:

- Complete a Retake Request Form (on Ms. French's teacher website)
- Have all minor assignments turned in for the unit
- Coordinate with the teacher a time to complete the retake assessment

Students will have 5 schools days after the grade is entered into Backpack to request a retake.

Class Policies and Expectations

- Respectful communication and collaboration with peers.
- Timely submission of assignments.
- Active participation in discussions and activities.
- Adherence to classroom rules and procedures.

Units Overview

Unit 1: Reality Check

- **Pacing:** 32 days
- **Essential Questions:** What can blur the lines between what's real and what's not?
- **Standards:** ELA.OE.1 Read and write for a variety of purposes, including academic and personal, for extended periods.

ELA.OE.2 Acquire, refine, and share knowledge through a variety of multimedia literacies to include written, oral, visual, digital, and interactive texts.

ELA.OE.3 Make inferences to support comprehension.

ELA.OE.4 Collaborate with others and use active listening skills.

ELA.OE.5 Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning

ELA.OE.6 Create quality work by adhering to an accepted format.

Unit 2: Take Control

- **Pacing:** 30 days
- **Essential Questions:** How do actions define us?
- **Standards:** **ELA.7.AOR.6.1** Summarize and/or paraphrase content from grade-level text to enhance comprehension. **ELA.7.AOR.7.1** Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies:

Unit 3: The Terror and Wonder of Space

- **Pacing:** 28 days
- **Essential Questions:** Is space exploration a daring adventure or a dangerous risk?
- **Standards:** **ELA.7.AOR.6.1** Summarize and/or paraphrase content from grade-level text to enhance comprehension.

ELA.7.AOR.7.1 Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies: a. use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) to determine the meaning of words and phrases;

ELA.7.AOR.7.1 Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies: b. use background or prior knowledge to determine or clarify the meanings of words

ELA.7.AOR.7.1 Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies: c. consult reference materials to determine or clarify the precise meanings, pronunciations, or parts of speech of words and phrases.

Unit 4: Inspired by Nature

- **Pacing:** 30 days
- **Essential Questions:** What does it mean to be in harmony with nature?
- **Standards:** **ELA.7.AOR.6.1** Summarize and/or paraphrase content from grade-level text to enhance comprehension.

ELA.7.AOR.7.1 Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies:

a. use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) to determine the meaning of words and phrases;

ELA.7.AOR.7.1 Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies:

b. use background or prior knowledge to determine or clarify the meanings of words

ELA.7.AOR.7.1 Determine or clarify the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple meaning words and phrases, choosing from an array of strategies: c. consult reference materials to determine or clarify the precise meanings, pronunciations, or parts of speech of words and phrases.

Unit 5: Game On!

- **Pacing:** 24 days
- **Essential Questions:** How do games impact our lives?
- **Standards:** **ELA.7.C.3.1** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences, memories, or ideas, using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and

well-structured event sequences. When writing: b. engage the reader by establishing context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters

ELA.7.C.3.1 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences, memories, or ideas, using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. When writing: c. organize a logical plot structure and use a variety of transitional words and phrases to convey sequence and signal time shifts

ELA.7.C.3.1 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences, memories, or ideas, using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. When writing: d. use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, and description to develop experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

ELA.7.C.3.1 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences, memories, or ideas, using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. When writing: e. use precise words, relevant descriptive details, and figurative language to convey the action, experiences, and events; and

Unit 6: Change Agents

- **Pacing:** 28 days
- **Essential Questions:** How can changing the world change you?
- **Standards:** **ELA.7.AOR.1.1** Analyze how lines of dialogue, specific events, or descriptive details develop the plot, reveal aspects of the characters, and/or create meaning.

ELA.7.AOR.5.1 Analyze how the structure of a literary text (e.g., narrative, drama, poem) contributes to its meaning.

ELA.7.AOR.3.1 b. Analyze how an author uses point(s) of view to develop and contrast the perspectives of different characters. **ELA.7.R.1.1** Conduct short and more sustained research for inquiry by:

a. generating a question(s) about a topic; and b. using a variety of print and multimedia sources to refine the scope of inquiry as relevant to the topic and the **purpose**.

ELA.7.R.1.2 Determine the credibility of one or more sources consulted and use the most credible source(s).

Rubric Sample for Assessments

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Content Understanding	Thorough understanding of the topic, with detailed examples.	Good understanding with some relevant examples.	Basic understanding with few examples.	Limited understanding, lacking examples.
Organization	Well-structured, logical flow of ideas.	Clear organization, mostly logical.	Some organization, may be confusing.	Poorly organized, difficult to follow.
Grammar and Mechanics	Few or no errors; writing is polished.	Some errors, but they do not distract from meaning.	Several errors that affect clarity.	Many errors that obscure meaning.

Engagement	Actively engages and stimulates discussion.	Participates and contributes to discussions.	Some participation, limited contribution.	Minimal participation, does not contribute.
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ENGLISH GT 7

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Teacher Name

Teacher Contact Information

- Email
- Office Phone
- Website

Course Description

- This course is designed to meet the needs of academically gifted and talented students who were identified through the standard measures implemented by The School District of Greenville County. The curriculum designed specifically for this course meets the guidelines set forth by the South Carolina State Department of Education as criteria for Gifted and Talented instruction. Students should expect to find the curriculum challenging in a number of ways: text complexity, analytical writing, problem solving, creative endeavors, and accelerated pace. PREREQUISITE: Identified as GTA (Gifted and Talented Academic).

Learning Objectives

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Course Outline/Pacing/Scope and Sequence

(for honors courses, this MUST include how the course exceeds the outcomes of the grade level course)

Textbook Title

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Into Literature 7 & Grammar Practice 7

Annotated Book List

This is applicable to ALL subjects that use any annotated text. An annotated text is a piece of writing, like an article, book, or webpage, with notes, highlights, or comments added to it to help the reader understand, engage with, or remember the material.

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Materials

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Grading Policy/Practices (*This follows the district assessment guidelines for minimum*)

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Late Work Procedures (*Must be school wide same procedures*)

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Redo/Retake/Revision Procedures

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Classroom Expectations

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Magic School

- This year, students will use MagicSchool AI, a generative AI platform designed specifically for education. As tools like ChatGPT and Gemini become standard in the professional world, utilizing MagicSchool prepares students for the future workforce by teaching safe and responsible technology use.
- Students will use these tools for real-time feedback and dynamic problem-solving. To ensure appropriate use, teachers retain access to all student chats. MagicSchool strictly protects privacy and does not collect or utilize student data. All AI software, including MagicSchool, complies with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.

Generative AI

This course may utilize generative AI tools, such as MagicSchool and Google Gemini, to supplement traditional instruction. Greenville County Schools prioritizes the ethical use of these technologies for brainstorming and self-guided learning.

- **Critical Thinking First:** AI must not replace original thought or coursework.
- **Academic Integrity:** Using AI to complete and submit assignments as original work constitutes plagiarism.
- **Required Citation:** If teacher-approved, all AI use must be properly cited.
- **Content Awareness:** Students must remain vigilant regarding potential biases and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- **Policy Compliance:** All AI programs align with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.

Class Novels:

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1962.

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic Press, 2008.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. Scholastic, 2017

Gratz, Alan. *Grenade*. Scholastic Press, 2018.