



Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts

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Accept my invitation for summaries of activity on Google Classroom and check the online gradebook regularly with your child.

COURSE CONTENT

- Long-term writing assignments that follow each step of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, proofreading, and publishing (Usually one per trimester.)
- In-class, on-demand writing assignments on various topics
- Pre-recorded or live presentations
- Reading, listening, and analysis of short stories, novels, poetry, speeches, podcasts, articles, blog posts, and other fiction and non-fiction pieces.
- Practice with written mechanics, usage, and grammar
- 7th grade novels: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *Dragonwings*, and *The Outsiders* or *The Pearl*
- 8th grade novels: a biography or autobiography of choice (within a theme), *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* or *Night*, and *Farewell to Manzanar*
- Textbook: *California Collections* published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, is an e-text. Hard copies are available by request.

HOMEWORK

Homework serves the following purposes:

- To prepare for an upcoming online lesson
- To complete an assignment that we began in class
- Independent practice
- For further research or completion of a long-term assignment
- Studying for an assessment

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR CHILDREN

- Encourage children to share assignments for discussion and feedback.
- Help with proofreading and editing by marking areas in need of review; try not to complete editing work for them.
- Encourage children to type using two hands and proper finger placement on the home row and using all fingers. (7th-grade goal for typing is 25 words per minute with 90% accuracy; 8th-grade goal for typing is 35 words per minute with 90% accuracy.)

- Encourage children who are typing below the goals, with incorrect typing position, or who still have to look at the keyboard to practice typing for 10-15 minutes a day using a Google App for typing such as Speed Typing — 10 Fast Fingers.
- View and treat missing assignments, misbehavior, or mistakes as learning opportunities. Help them reflect and plan what they can do differently in the future.
- Sit down regularly with children to review their returned work on Classroom.

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH

- Email is most efficient and timely, I find. You may email anytime to check on your child's progress or ask questions of any kind.
- Accept my invitation to join my Google Classroom and have Language Arts class summaries emailed to you. (This will also be a way that you can ask your child about assignments to spark conversation.)

PROGRESS REPORTS and ONLINE GRADE BOOK

- Check the SchoolWise online grade book or Classroom regularly and use those checks as opportunities to have conversations with your child about any missing work or low scores.
- Talk to your child about anything you have questions about first. Then have them talk to me if they cannot answer your questions. Finally, contact me if you or your child still have questions. We want students to practice communication with their teachers in preparation for high school and beyond.
- Progress reports are mailed home toward the end of each trimester to the parents of students who are earning below 70% for their overall class grade; they offer students an opportunity to raise their grades before report cards are issued.
- Help your child strategize about what to do differently in the future if there is an issue, even if the first step is for them to talk to me about ideas for what they could do differently!

ABSENCES / OFFICE HOURS

- In the event of an absence from an online meeting, students should check Google Classroom for assignments. If there are questions, I will be available online from 1:00-2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- If your child is in need of a one-on-one check-in with me, office hours are a great time to do this. You may want to decide on one day a week for your child to meet with me, or students can drop in as needed.