



7th Grade English Course Overview

Course Overview:

In 7th grade English, we will concentrate on expository and persuasive writing. Our focus for learning will include crafting sophisticated thesis statements, drawing connections between texts, supporting arguments with compelling evidence, and organizing essays clearly and logically. Students will read class novels and plays that include [*The Circuit*](#), [*Animal Farm*](#), [*The Great Gatsby*](#), and Shakespeare's [*Julius Caesar*](#). Vocabulary and grammar lessons will be spiraled throughout each unit and integrated into student writing. Class discussions will center around the theme of society and expectation, allowing students a safe space to question and reflect on the world around them.

Class Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/newman-english/home>

Students and families are strongly encouraged to bookmark this site, as it will be used on a regular basis. Lessons will be published weekly, providing access to relevant course materials, discussion prompts, and assignments.

Materials

Students are responsible for bringing their materials to class each day. Organization and preparedness are reflected in the effort grade for this class. Each unit will cover a class novel, as well as 2 independent reading books which are selected from a list of recommendations or otherwise approved by the teacher. Students will be given a personal copy of each class novel, and they are expected to make annotations throughout the book. Independent reading books borrowed from the class library will be shared; therefore, students may utilize either Post-it notes or a reader's notebook to track their thinking while engaging with these texts. Many assignments will be drafted and submitted online; therefore students must come to class with their devices charged and ready. Each child will maintain a folder that should be brought to class for hard copies of materials.

Homework

Homework may include Word Voyage lessons, written responses, vocabulary and grammar exercises, and assigned readings. Each of these assignments is intended to prepare students for class. Completing the work means being prepared to engage in upcoming lessons, assessments, and discussions.

Grading

40% Principal Assessments (Essays, Tests, Projects, etc.)
15% Homework

30% Quizzes & Classwork
15% Participation



Late Work

All late work must be discussed with the teacher in advance. If a student is absent due to illness, they will have the same number of days missed to make up any work. Work submitted late without prior permission will lose twenty percent per day. Repeated lateness will be reflected in the effort grade.

Assignments that require multiple days or weeks to complete may not be eligible for late credit unless discussed beforehand. Due to the nature of the program, Word Voyage assignments are not eligible for extensions; however, students are given multiple weeks to complete them.

All late work must be emailed directly to the teacher and include the assignment title, original due date, and a brief explanation for the delay.

Tardiness

All students must arrive to class on time with the required materials. Leaving the room to perform personal errands such as going to a locker, bathroom, or drinking fountain at the beginning of class will result in a tardy mark for attendance. In order to be counted as on time, one must be in his/her seat with the required materials for class. Repeated tardiness will result in a lowered effort grade and reported to the Head of Upper School for further review.

Independent Reading

Students will read a minimum of two independent reading books per quarter in addition to the class novel. Independent reading will be assessed in a variety of ways, including written responses, teacher–student conferences, peer conversations, silent sustained reading in class, and AR360 quizzes. To foster deeper understanding and appreciation of literature, students are expected to read for at least 20 minutes each night, including weekends and non-school days, since consistent daily reading helps build strong habits, improves comprehension, and supports long-term retention. Frequent check-ins are designed to encourage steady progress, as attempting to read large amounts in a short period or frequently switching books is less effective than sustained, focused reading over time. Students may read as many books as they wish in a quarter, and at the end of each quarter, all independent reading scores will be averaged and recorded as one principal assessment grade.

AI is meant to ENHANCE our education NOT REPLACE it.

While technology will play a supportive role in our learning, it's important to note that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete student work will not be accepted. Instead, we will work together to explore meaningful ways to use technology that enhance and deepen our understanding. From research tools to creative projects, we will learn how to responsibly integrate technology in ways that bolster learning, while ensuring that all work reflects each student's personal effort and growth.