

**7th Grade Standards**

**Language Arts**

**Course Overview:** Language Arts 7 focuses on building students' vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking and listening skills. Differentiated projects and assessments offer students the opportunity to choose learning/application methods that best suit their learning styles and needs. Students will be graded based on completion, quality of work, and participation in activities and assignments.

**Bold standards are essential standards that all students will learn as they complete the course.**

**Unit 1 Persuasive Writing (21 days)**

**Description:** Students will demonstrate the components of effective written persuasion.

**Standards**

1. **The students will create a piece of persuasive writing with arguments to support claims. (W7.1)**
2. The students will introduce claims and acknowledge opposing claims, all while organizing the reasons and evidence logically. (W7.1A)
3. The students will establish and maintain a formal style, while using words, phrases and clauses to create a cohesive written piece of text. (W7.1C, W7.1D)
4. The students will, with minimal help from peers and teachers, edit a piece of writing to achieve a polished written piece of text. (W7.5)
5. The students will draw from several sources, both print and digital, to support their opinions. (W7.6, W7.7, W7.8)

**Unit 2 Informational Writing (21 days)**

**Description:** Students will demonstrate the components of effective informational writing to examine a topic.

**Standards**

1. **The students will write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization and analysis of relevant content. (W7.2A)**
2. The students will establish and maintain a formal style, while using precise language and transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among topics. (W7.2C, W7.2D, W7.2E)
3. The students will provide a concluding statement that supports the information or explanation presented. (W7.2F)
4. The students will, with minimal help from peers and teachers, edit a piece of writing to achieve a polished written piece of text. (W7.5)

**Unit 3 Narrative Writing (21 days)**

**Description:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of narrative writings through real or imagined experiences.

**Standards**

1. The students will create pieces of writing to reflect real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences (W7.3)
2. Students will introduce the story by actively engaging the reader by establishing a context and point of view through a narrator and/or characters. (W7.3A)
3. Students will organize an event sequence that unfolds logically through the use of narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description and reflection. (W7.3A, W7.3B)
4. Students will use the components of Six Traits to enhance their writing. (W7.1, W7.2, W7.3, W7.4, W7.5)
5. Students will use age-appropriate vocabulary and transitions to convey sequence or signal shifts from one time frame to another. (W7.3C and W7.3D)
6. The students will, with minimal help from peers and teachers, edit a piece of writing to achieve a polished written piece of text. (W7.5)
7. Students will provide a conclusion that wraps up all of the elements of plot (W7.3E)

**Unit 4 Research (40 days)**

**Description:** Students will be involved in multiple mini-research projects throughout the year in which they either respond to a topic (either teacher-generated or self-generated).

**Standards**

1. The students will conduct short research projects to answer a question on a given topic. (W7.7)
2. The students will gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. (W7.8)
3. **The students will present claims and findings, emphasizing points in a focused, cohesive manner with valid reasoning. (SL7.4)**
4. The students will integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (SL7.5)

**Unit 5 Literature (40 days)**

**Description:** The students will read grade-level literature to determine theme, plot, character traits and word meaning.

**Standards**

1. **Students will determine a theme or central idea and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting and plot. (RL7.2)**
2. Students will analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (i.e.: how setting shapes characters and/or plot. (RL 7.3)
3. Students will determine unknown word meanings through context and will analyze the impact of word choice on a story’s tone/mood. (RL 7.4)
4. Students will analyze how a dramas or poem’s form or structure contribute to its meaning. (RL 7.5)
5. Students will analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text. (RL 7.6)
6. Students will compare and contrast a piece of literature with other forms of information, including other fiction and non-fiction text, videos and discussions. (RL 7.7, RL 7.9)

**Unit 6 Informational Text (40 days)**

**Description:** The students will read non-fiction, informational text with the ability to make inferences and determine a central idea for each selection.

**Standards**

1. **Students will cite textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (RI7.1)**
2. Students will determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary. (RI7.2)
3. Students will determine word meaning as used in context, analyze paragraph structure and determine an author’s point of view (RI7.4, RI 7.5, RI7.6)
4. Students will evaluate and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums or multiple texts. (RI7.7)
5. Students will evaluate an argument and specific claims in a text assessing the relevance. (RI7.8)
6. Students will analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence of advancing different interpretation of text. (RI7.9)

**Unit 7 Language (ongoing)**

**Description:** The students will demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.

**Standards**

1. The students will demonstrate use of correct phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences. (L7.1)
2. **The students will use the correct conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation and spelling when writing. (L7.2, L7.3)**
3. The students will increase their use of common, grade-appropriate vocabulary through the use of context, Greek or Latin affixes or roots, reference materials, literature and discussion. (L7.3, L7.4)
4. **The students will increase their understanding of figurative language, relationships between words (synonym/antonym) and word associations (analogies) through the use of grade-level literature. (L7.5. L7.6)**

**Unit 8 Accelerated Reader (ongoing)**

**Description:** The students will read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, poems at the high end of grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

**Standards**

1. Students will use Accelerated Reader to independently and proficiently read at the grade level reflective of the STAR score results. (RL7.10)