



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Core English Grade 7
(LA1115)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Core English 7 provides a variety of opportunities in reading and writing that challenge the students to examine people and places that are different from the world they know. Strengthening comprehension; learning to prioritize, organize, and retain important concepts and information; fostering an enjoyment of reading; and developing public speaking and listening skills are major goals of the seventh-grade program. The students use the writing process to develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing and begin to read and write critically about literature. Throughout the year, the students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their writing portfolios.

This course is organized around thematic units that reflect a variety of encounters with literature. In *Emergence of Literature*, the students will investigate the development of literature from the oral tradition to the written format. In *The Meaning of Literature*, the students examine the elements authors use to build stories that express their views of the world. Reading, discussion, and classroom presentations require that the students move beyond the literal recall of facts to an interpretation of a piece of literature. *Author's Purpose* provides opportunities to examine various purposes for writing and to consider how writers make choices based on audience, purpose, and format. In *The Imaginative Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy*, the students are offered surprising or different perspectives from which to view people, events or objects. At this grade level, students take a Reading Test for the English Standards of Learning.

PREREQUISITE

English 6

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are Core English, Grade 8 and Advanced English, Grade 8.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Hardbound and Online Access for *Holt McDougal Literature, 7*
Online Access for *Write Source Recharged*

READING SELECTIONS

After the Dancing Days, Margaret Rostkowski
Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko
Among the Hidden, Margaret Haddix
Bearstone, Will Hobbs
Blizzard, Jim Murphy
The Call of the Wild, Jack London
The Cat Ate My Gymsuit, Paula Danziger
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens
The Double Life of Pocahontas, Jean Fritz
Dreamland Lake, Richard Peck
Edgar Allen, John Neufeld
The Forgotten Door, Alexander Key
Hidden Talents, David Lubar
Homecoming, Cynthia Voight
In My Father's House, Ann Rinaldi
Joey Pigza Loses Control, Jack Gantos
The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan

No More Dead Dogs, Gordon Korman
Out of the Dust, Pam Hesse
Plain Girl, Virginia Sorenson
A Single Shard, Linda Sue Park
Sojourner Truth, Peter Krass
Something for Joey, Richard E. Peck
Souder, William Armstrong
Tangerine, Edward Bloor
The Teacher's Funeral, Richard Peck
The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963,
Christopher Curtis
Weirdo, Theodore Taylor
Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls
The Witch of Blackbird Pond, Elizabeth Speare
Wolf Rider, Avi
A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

7TH GRADE VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA 7.1 The student will participate in and contribute to conversations, and group discussions. (SOL 7.1)

- ELA 7.1.1 Ask probing questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas. (SOL 7.1b)
- ELA 7.1.2 Communicate ideas and information orally in an organized and succinct manner. (SOL 7.1a)
- ELA 7.1.3 Make statements to communicate agreement or tactful disagreement with others' ideas. (SOL 7.1c)
- ELA 7.1.4 Build on others' ideas and convey individual ideas clearly and expressively (CCS, 6-8).
- ELA 7.1.5 Synthesize ideas and make new connections in order to create a shared plan of action or to convey ideas generated through group consensus.
- ELA 7.1.6 Analyze the effectiveness of participant interactions.

ELA 7.2 The student will present, listen critically, and express opinions in oral presentations individually and in collaboration with peers. (SOL 7.1; SOL7.2)

- ELA 7.2.1 Present a convincing argument or explanation that includes the use of multimedia and visual displays, as appropriate, to enhance the effectiveness of the argument.
- ELA 7.2.2 Use language and style appropriate to audience, topic, and purpose. (SOL 7.1d)
- ELA 7.2.3 Use a variety of strategies to listen actively (e.g., take notes, generate questions, prepare a response, write a critique). (SOL 7.1e)
- ELA 7.2.4 Respond to audience questions and comments.
- ELA 7.2.5 Identify and demonstrate the relationship between a speaker's verbal and nonverbal messages. (SOL 7.2)
- ELA 7.2.6 Use verbal communication skills, such as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone, and voice appropriate for the intended audience. (SOL 7.2a)
- ELA 7.2.7 Use nonverbal communication skills, such as eye contact, posture, and gestures to enhance verbal communication skills. (SOL 7.2b)
- ELA 7.2.8 Compare/contrast a speaker's verbal and nonverbal messages. (SOL 7.2c)

ELA 7.3 The student will understand the elements of media literacy. (SOL 7.3)

- ELA 7.3.1 Identify persuasive/informative techniques used in nonprint media including television, radio, video, and Internet. (SOL 7.3a)
- ELA 7.3.2 Distinguish between fact and opinion and between evidence and inference. (SOL 7.3b)
- ELA 7.3.3 Describe how word choice and visual images convey a viewpoint. (SOL 7.3c)
- ELA 7.3.4 Compare and contrast the techniques in auditory, visual, and written media messages. (SOL 7.3d)
- ELA 7.3.5 Craft and publish audience-specific media messages. (SOL 7.3e)

READING AND RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

ELA 7.4 The student will read to determine the meanings and pronunciations of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts. (SOL 7.4)

- ELA 7.4.1 Identify word origins and derivations. (SOL 7.4a)
- ELA 7.4.2 Use roots, cognates, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary. (SOL 7.4b)
- ELA 7.4.3 Identify and analyze figurative language. (SOL 7.4c)
- ELA 7.4.4 Differentiate between connotation and denotation.
- ELA 7.4.5 Identify connotations. (SOL 7.4d)
- ELA 7.4.6 Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words. (SOL 7.4e)
- ELA 7.4.7 Extend general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. (SOL 7.4f)

ELA 7.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry presented in a variety of media and formats. (SOL 7.5)

- ELA 7.5.1 Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process. (SOL 7.5l)
- ELA 7.5.2 Use prior and background knowledge as a context for new learning. (SOL 7.5f)
- ELA 7.5.3 Use information in the text to draw conclusions and make inferences. (SOL 7.5g)
- ELA 7.5.4 Identify the author's organizational pattern. (SOL 7.5j)
- ELA 7.5.5 Summarize a text by identifying the main idea and referencing supporting details. (SOL 7.5h; SOL 7.5i)
- ELA 7.5.6 Describe the elements of narrative structure including setting, character development, plot structure, theme, and conflict. (SOL 7.5a)
- ELA 7.5.7 Describe cause and effect relationships developed within a text. (SOL 7.5k)
- ELA 7.5.8 Identify conventional elements and characteristics of a variety of genres. (SOL 7.5c)
- ELA 7.5.9 Compare and contrast various forms and genres of fictional text. (SOL 7.5b)
- ELA 7.5.10 Describe the impact of word choice, imagery, and literary devices including figurative language. (SOL 7.5d)
- ELA 7.5.11 Describe the relationship between historical and cultural influences and literary selections.
- ELA 7.5.12 Explain the purpose, themes, characters, symbols and allusions related to Greek and Roman myths.
- ELA 7.5.13 Make, confirm, and revise predictions. (SOL 7.5e)

ELA 7.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts presented in a variety of media and formats. (SOL 7.6)

- ELA 7.6.1 Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process. (SOL 7.6l)
- ELA 7.6.2 Use prior and background knowledge as a context for new learning. (SOL 7.6a)
- ELA 7.6.3 Use text structures to aid comprehension. (SOL 7.6b)
- ELA 7.6.4 Identify an author's organizational pattern (internal) using textual clues, such as transitional words and phrases. (SOL 7.6c)
- ELA 7.6.5 Draw conclusions and make inferences on explicit and implied information. (SOL 7.6d)
- ELA 7.6.6 Summarize a text by identifying the main idea and referencing supporting details. (SOL 7.6h; SOL 7.6i)

- ELA 7.6.7 Identify the source, viewpoint, and purpose of texts (printed and electronic). (SOL 7.6f)
- ELA 7.6.8 Identify misconceptions, conflicting information and bias from a variety of resources (print and electronic).
- ELA 7.6.9 Identify cause and effect relationships. (SOL 7.6j)
- ELA 7.6.10 Differentiate between fact and opinion. (SOL 7.6e)
- ELA 7.6.11 Describe how word choice and language structure (e.g., loaded language, persuasive techniques, connotation, emotional and logical appeals, language suited to the audience, bias) convey an author's viewpoint. (SOL 7.6g)
- ELA 7.6.12 Describe the effect of texts, images, and sound in an electronic text on the reader.
- ELA 7.6.13 Organize and synthesize information for use in written formats. (SOL 7.6k)
- ELA 7.6.14 Recognize an author's purpose: to entertain; to inform; and to persuade.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- ELA 7.7 The student will write in a variety of forms with an emphasis on exposition, narration, and persuasion. (SOL 7.7)**
- ELA 7.7.1 Write multi-paragraph informative/explanatory text to elaborate upon complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately. (SOL 7.7f)
- ELA 7.7.2 Write multi-paragraph persuasive pieces to convince an audience to accept a point of view or to take action. (SOL 7.7f)
- ELA 7.7.3 Write narratives to develop real and imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- ELA 7.7.4 Write to summarize and critique fiction and nonfiction text.
- ELA 7.7.5 Write poetry in a variety of forms, employing figurative language, sound devices, and poetic structures.
- ELA 7.7.6 Identify intended audience and purpose. (SOL 7.7a)
- ELA 7.7.7 Use a variety of prewriting strategies including graphic organizers to generate and organize ideas. (SOL 7.7b)
- ELA 7.7.8 Organize writing structure to fit mode or topic. (SOL 7.7c)
- ELA 7.7.9 Establish a central idea and organization. (SOL 7.7d)
- ELA 7.7.10 Compose a topic sentence or thesis statement. (SOL 7.7e)
- ELA 7.7.11 Write multiple paragraphs and use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major ideas of the text, achieve unity, and clarify the relationships among ideas. (SOL 7.7f)
- ELA 7.7.12 Select vocabulary and information to enhance the central idea, tone, and voice. (SOL 7.7g)
- ELA 7.7.13 Expand and embed ideas by using modifiers, standard coordination, and subordination in complete sentences. (SOL 7.7h)
- ELA 7.7.14 Use clauses and phrases for sentence variety. (SOL 7.7i)
- ELA 7.7.15 Revise sentences for clarity of content including specific vocabulary and information. (SOL 7.7j)
- ELA 7.7.16 Use computer technology to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing. (SOL 7.7k)
- ELA 7.7.17 Use a Works in Progress folder to compose and strengthen writing in various stages of development.
- ELA 7.7.18 Use reflection as a tool to demonstrate growth as a writer and to self-evaluate the writing process and product.
- ELA 7.7.19 Publish a portfolio that emphasizes the student's ability to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing product.

- ELA 7.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing. (SOL 7.8)**
- ELA 7.8.1 Use a variety of graphic organizers, including sentence diagrams, to analyze and improve sentence formation and paragraph structure. (SOL 7.8a)
- ELA 7.8.2 Recognize, write, and correctly punctuate simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- ELA 7.8.3 Choose appropriate adjectives and adverbs to enhance writing. (SOL 7.8b)

- ELA 7.8.4 Use pronoun-antecedent agreement to include indefinite pronouns. (SOL 7.8c)
- ELA 7.8.5 Use subject-verb agreement with intervening phrases and clauses. (SOL 7.8d)
- ELA 7.8.6 Edit for verb tense consistency and point of view. (SOL 7.8e)
- ELA 7.8.7 Demonstrate understanding of sentence formation by identifying the eight parts of speech and their functions in sentences. (SOL 7.8f)
- ELA 7.8.8 Use quotation marks with dialogue. (SOL 7.8g)
- ELA 7.8.9 Expand the use of punctuation to include colon, parentheses, and apostrophes to indicate possession and contractions.
- ELA 7.8.10 Use correct spelling for commonly used words. (SOL 7.8h)

RESEARCH

ELA 7.9 The student will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research product. (SOL 7.9)

- ELA 7.9.1 Collect and organize information from multiple sources including online, print and media. (SOL 7.9a)
- ELA 7.9.2 Evaluate the validity and authenticity, including credibility, origin, potential bias, and overall quality, of sources. (SOL 7.9b)
- ELA 7.9.3 Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information. (SOL 7.9c)
- ELA 7.9.4 Cite primary and secondary sources. (SOL 7.9d)
- ELA 7.9.5 Use in-text parenthetical citation within the body of the report.
- ELA 7.9.6 Develop a Works Cited in the MLA format that credits a minimum of three sources (both primary and secondary) that were used to construct the research product.
- ELA 7.9.7 Define the meaning and consequences of plagiarism and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information. (SOL 7.9e)

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For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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CHARTING THE COURSE

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