



***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 through students' examination of various genres, authors, characters, people, and themselves. This course is organized around the overarching theme of Choices and reflects a variety of encounters with literature: non-fiction, short stories, novels and excerpts, myths/fables, narrative non-fiction, and media. Major goals of the seventh-grade program include: strengthening writing and organization, reading comprehension, critical thinking, and research along with developing effective communication through group discussions and oral presentations. The students use the writing process to develop expository, narrative, reflective, and persuasive writing. Through writing instruction, students learn to analyze their own writing, and set goals to improve their composing and expression, and grammar, usage, and mechanics. The students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their writing. Additionally, they begin to read and write critically in response literature.

Writing, reading, discussion, performance based assessments, and classroom presentations require that the students move beyond literal recall of facts to an interpretation of literature with cooperative written response. Students are provided opportunities to examine various purposes for writing and to consider how writers make choices based on audience, purpose, and format.

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*

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

The teacher may choose supplementary materials to extend and enrich the students' knowledge of course standards. These materials may be drawn from: supplementary novels, visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs and other online educational resources.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Visit the Virginia Department of Education website to access the English 7 Standards of Learning

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/english/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml)

### READING SELECTIONS

*After the Dancing Days*, Rostkowski  
*Al Capone Does My Shirts*  
*A Christmas Carol*, Dickens (PHL drama)  
*The Double Life of Pocahontas*, Fritz  
*Dreamland Lake*, Peck  
*Edgar Allen*, Neufeld  
*The Forgotten Door*, Key  
*Homecoming*, Voight  
*The Lighting Thief*, Riordan  
*No More Dead Dogs*, Korman  
*Plain Girl*, Sorensen  
*A Single Shard*, Park  
*Souder*, Armstrong  
*Tangerine*, Bloor  
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963*, Curtis  
*Weirdo*, Taylor  
*Where the Red Fern Grows*, Rawls  
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Speare  
*Wolf rider*, Avi  
*A Wrinkle in Time*, L'Engle  
*Blizzard: The Storm that Changed America*, Moore

*The Call of the Wild*, London  
*A Christmas Carol*, Dickens (dramatic version in Core)  
*A Long Walk to Water*, Park  
*Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, Swanson  
*Dacey's Song*, Voight  
*The Door in the Wall*, deAngeli  
*Homecoming*, Voight  
*Homeless Bird*, Whelan  
*In My Father's House*, Rinaldi  
*Jacob Have I Loved*, Paterson  
*The Moorchild*, McGraw  
*The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs*, Markle  
*Mythology*, Hamilton  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Douglass (excerpts for Core English 7)  
*Out of the Dust*, Hesse  
*Sojourner Truth*, Krass  
*Wonder*, Palacio  
*A Wrinkle in Time*, L'Engle  
*Words by Heart*, Sebastyen

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

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*To seek resolution of grievances resulting from alleged discrimination or to report violations of these policies, please contact the Title VI/Title IX Coordinator/Director of Student Leadership at (757) 263-2020, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451 (for student complaints) or the Section 504/ADA Coordinator/Chief Human Resources Officer at (757) 263-1133, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 (for employees or other citizens). Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Laskin Road Annex, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451.*

*Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at [Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com](mailto:Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com).*

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CHARTING THE COURSE

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August 2018