

Seventh Grade English Syllabus 2011 - 2012

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Course Description

Seventh grade students face new challenges in reading, writing, listening, and thinking as they move to the upper hall in the middle school. This course will encourage students to explore more complex works of literature while helping them to develop their writing skills with essays, short fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Through reading and writing, students will also continue to develop their competency with grammar and expand their vocabularies.

Seventh grade English is taught as a parallel curriculum with seventh grade social studies, with both classes reading and discussing texts focused on specific periods in American history. Both classes cover the early settlements in the new world, specifically Jamestown (1607), through ratification of the Constitution (1788). While history classes might focus on primary source documents and geography, the English classes will be reading novels, plays, poetry, and fiction set in similar periods of time and with corresponding themes. Additionally, both classes will study early Tulsa and Oklahoma history and conclude the year with a downtown studies project.

Learning Objectives and Benchmarks

Reads and annotates actively and with proficiency.

Through reading, writing, and discussion, develops critical thinking skills of comprehension and synthesis. Applies new information while also connecting ideas across disciplines.

Writes in a variety of genres, including essay, poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction, while making use of effective idea development, organization, word choice, and sentence fluency.

Uses the rules of grammar and punctuation with each draft and recognizes mistakes in the work of others.

Makes use of comments to develop second and third drafts of writing assignments.

Methods of Instruction

The primary teaching methods include daily writing exercises, class discussion, small group projects, an on-line blog, and individual conferences. Many projects are student led with the teacher serving as facilitator.

Course Materials

Blood on the River – Elisa Carbone

Romeo and Juliet – William Shakespeare

The Winter People – Joseph Bruchac

The Real Revolution; The Global Story of American Independence – Marc Aronson

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins

Chains – Laurie Anderson

Forge - Laurie Anderson

Other texts, including poetry, short stories, and essays, will be distributed in class.

Assessment

Student progress is measured through writing, class discussion, homework, tests, research work, effort, and improvement. Students will also work on self-evaluations through the development of a portfolio of their best work.

Outline of Topics

Trimester 1 - Jamestown (1607) - 13 Colonies (1754) - Oklahoma history, *Blood on the River*, *Romeo and Juliet*

Semester 1 –13 Colonies (1754) - Revolutionary War (1775) - Tulsa history, *The Winter People*, *The Real Revolution*, *Hunger Games*

Semester 2 – Revolutionary War (1776) - Constitution (1788) - downtown study, *Chains*, *Forge*