

St. Clement's School
Course Outline
Seventh Grade Language Arts
Fall Semester

This course outline is a general guide to familiarize students and parents with an overview of Seventh Grade Language Arts, which is divided into two major areas: **Reading (literature and vocabulary)** and **Language Usage (grammar and writing.)** The rate of progress through the syllabus presented below may vary, depending on the learning pace that students accomplish throughout the semester.

I. Reading (Literature and Vocabulary)

A. Vocabulary

1. Weekly vocabulary words will come from what we are reading, with words given on Mondays and quizzes on Fridays. In addition students will study Latin and Greek root words throughout the semester.
2. Review of dictionary skills ~ students will be asked to look up words in a dictionary or computer and write definitions and sentences in their own words. (Highlighting and printing from the computer is not acceptable.)

B. Literature

1. Novel ~ *The Pearl*
 - a. Author Study ~ John Steinbeck
 - b. Genre Study ~ Parable
 - c. Literary elements ~ plot, conflict, symbolism, setting, characterization, archetypes, imagery, and theme
2. Heroes in Legend ~ King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table
 - a. "King Arthur: The Sword in the Stone" by Hudson Talbott
 - b. "Merlin and the Dragons" by Jane Yolen
 - c. "Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady" retold by Betsy Hearne
 - d. "The Lady of Shalott" by Alfred, Lord Tenneyson
 - e. "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" by John Keats
3. Heroes Today ~ *The Hero's Trail* (non-fiction) by T.A. Barron
4. Novel ~ *The Outsiders*
 - a. Author Study ~ S.E. Hinton
 - b. Genre Study ~ the modern novel
 - c. Literary elements

II. Language Usage (Grammar and Writing)

A. Grammar

1. Review: Types of sentences, subjects and predicates, sentence fragments and run-on sentences
2. Verbs: action and helping verbs and their complements (direct and indirect objects, predicate adjectives and predicate nominatives); verbals (infinitives, participles, and gerunds)
3. Adjectives, adverbs and prepositions ~ adverb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, and appositive phrases
4. Remaining parts of speech (interjections and conjunctions)
5. Clauses: dependent and independent clauses; noun clauses, adjective clauses and adverb clauses
6. Diagramming
7. Homonyms and words often misspelled

B. Writing

1. Students will have a Writing Folder, kept in the classroom, in which their writing assignments ~ rough drafts, revisions, and final drafts ~ are neatly and carefully store throughout the semester. Almost all writing will be done in class (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays) and students may bring laptops to school to write. The teacher will schedule individual time with every student to review and discuss the student's writing

strengths and weaknesses, and the Writing Folder will serve as the basis for evaluating a student's progress. Writing assignments will include:

- a. a personal narrative
 - b. their own short story
 - c. a descriptive essay
 - d. their own poetry
 - e. a persuasive essay
 - f. outlining
 - g. paraphrasing
 - h. summarizing
 - i. a short research paper, using MLA format to cite sources.
2. When writing an essay or a research paper, the process will consist of a pre-write, rough draft, revision, peer editing, final revision, and final draft. All steps in the writing process must be completed to get full credit for the final paper, and most of this will be done in class. **All final papers must be typed, double-spaced, using 12 font Times New Roman font.** Throughout the semester, students will monitor their own progress in writing skills, along with one-on-one conferences with the teacher.
 3. Students will use MLA format when citing sources for a report or research paper. This includes parenthetical citations within their paper, and a Works Cited page at the end.

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Learning Objectives:

- ~ **READ** with insight and comprehension ~ identifying literary elements, interpreting irony and symbolism, and analyzing characters and their actions;
- ~ **SPEAK** with clarity and purpose, using expanded vocabulary and correct grammar;
- ~ **WRITE** clearly, stating a thesis and supporting it, and using precise vocabulary, correct spelling and grammar, and appropriate voice and diction in essays, reports, and their own creative endeavors.

Grading:

Homework (this will include vocabulary definitions and grammar workbook pages)	25%
Reading checks (literature) and quizzes (grammar and vocabulary)	25%
English Notebook/ Reader Response Journal	15%
Major projects/Tests (oral and written reports, unit tests, projects)	20%
Class participation (volunteering during discussions, bringing materials to class)	15%