

# 7th Grade English-Language Arts

2018-2019

## Welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts!

### Curriculum and Texts

*California Collections* (textbook and e-book)

Close Reader (work-text)

Core Novels - selected by the instructor

Independent Reading Books - selected by the student

### Materials

All students should bring the following materials to class each day:

- 3 ring binder with a separate ELA section
- CMS Agenda Book
- Lined paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Correcting Pens (red, purple, etc.)
- Independent reading book (150 pages minimum)
- Highlighters and sticky notes (small and standard size)
- 1 spiral notebook (100+ pages)

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to 7th Grade English-Language Arts!

English Language Arts is based on the California State Standards, which incorporates reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities. Students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts and will have numerous opportunities to strengthen their reading and writing skills. Students will write objective summaries, informative/ explanatory, argumentative, and narrative essays. Students will have daily practice with English language conventions (grammar) and vocabulary development. These skills are assessed throughout each semester and are essential for students to master before progressing to 8th grade and high school.

7th Grade Teachers:

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### Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to arrive to class on time each day with the required classroom materials. Students must behave in an appropriate manner during class time. This includes showing respect to fellow classmates as well as the teacher. Students who break classroom rules will be subject to the school wide discipline system.

### Grading Policy

All grades are calculated based on the total number of points a student earns. The assignments will be grouped into the following categories:

**Classwork**

**Homework**

**Tests/Quizzes**

**Writing**

### Google Classroom

Each student will have an email account through Google Apps for Education. With this account, they will have access to a wide variety of apps and will be required to submit many assignments online in Google Classroom.

### Usernames and Passwords

Students will have usernames and passwords for Google Classroom and for the new online curriculum. Students will be reminded not to share usernames and passwords with anyone. In addition, students need to learn to keep track of their own usernames and passwords.

### Independent Reading Assignments (IRA)

Students are required to read two books each semester (approximately one book every eight weeks). They will then complete an IRA, which will be factored into their class grade. At times throughout the year, students will read core books. While studying these texts, students will complete alternative assignments.

The grading scale is as follows:

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 59% and below

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## Home/School Communication

Students grades can be accessed online using the online gradebook website

<https://login.jupitered.com/login>

You may check your child's grade at any time using this website. You can set preferences in Jupiter Ed for weekly updates.

Assignments, projects, quizzes and important dates will be posted on the class website:

[balvarez.weebly.com](http://balvarez.weebly.com)

Please be aware that most handouts are available via the class website. This will be especially helpful if your child is absent.

## Absences/Late Work

**Absent work:** All make-up work must be completed within the number of days equal to the student's absence, plus one day. For example, a student absent for one day would have two days to complete any assignments missed during the absence. This policy does not apply to long-term projects, which are due immediately upon a student's return to class, or to school-related absences such as field trips, performances, etc. Students are provided a calendar so they are aware of due dates in advance. Students missing class as a result of school-related activities are still required to turn in all assignments on the original due date. It is the responsibility of the student to acquire and complete all make-up work. When absent, students are encouraged to refer to assignments listed on the class website, to email the teacher, or to call a classmate.

**Late work:** Students are given FOUR "Late Work Vouchers" per semester. These vouchers must be attached to the original assignment, and submitted the class meeting after the original due date, in the class "Late Work" tray. Without a "Late Voucher," assignments submitted one class period late will receive half credit.

**Essays and projects** are docked one full letter grade **each day** they are late. "Late Vouchers" MAY NOT be used on IRAs, essays, projects, or long-term assignments.

## Academic Dishonesty

Students are reminded that all work submitted for class credit must be original. While students will often have the opportunity to work collaboratively, assignments must reflect the individual work of each student. Students who copy work of others or allow their own work to be copies, in part or whole, will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Plagiarism:** Students may be asked to reference other texts within their assignments. Students must properly cite and/or reference their sources any time they are using information that is not their own.

Students who engage in academic dishonesty of any kind will receive a referral and a zero for the assignment in question as per the Castaic Union School District policy.

## We would love to hear from you!

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher for further information regarding the above-mentioned practices, or to discuss concerns that you may have regarding your child's performance in English Language Arts. We feel it is preferable to handle problems at the earliest opportunity, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns you may have.

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