

7th Grade Reading Syllabus

Course Description:

We will focus on the skills necessary to become successful readers. Students will develop critical thinking and comprehension skills in a variety of categories including: Figures of speech, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, exploring types of text structures, drawing conclusions, conflict/resolution, predicting and determining author's purpose and style, main ideas and details, making inferences, summarizing, analyzing character traits, and the use of context close for defining vocabulary terms.

What is S.L.A.M.? Students using S.L.A.M. in their responses will help them to become confident and proficient readers and writers.

S- State part of the question in your first sentence.

L- Locate evidence from the story."In the story it says..." "This proves..."

A- Add your own ideas. "In my opinion..." "I can relate to this..."

M- Make a meaningful connection or conclusion.

Course Structure:

Our course will be divided into four units. Each unit will cover a quarter (or grading period) for the school year.

Unit 1: Survival in the Wild

Essential Question- What similarities and differences exist among characters that survive in the wilderness.

Unit 2: Perseverance

Essential Question- How do characters, real a fictional, use words and actions to demonstrate perseverance?

Unit 3: Science or Fiction?

Essential Question: How do authors make science fiction believable?

Unit 4: Literature Reflects Life- Make Sense of our World

Essential Question- Is literature always a reflection of life?

Please check class website (teammcgrath.weebly.com), under the “Units” tab for unit overview, focus standards, student objectives, recourses, and activities.

Expectations: H.E.A.R.T.

Honor- Do you own work.

Expectations- I have high expectations for all of my students, and I expect you to do the same for yourself.

Attitude- You must have and keep a positive attitude in the classroom, let’s have fun!

Respect- You must respect yourself, others, and school property.

Teamwork- We are a team, and you must act as a team player. Working in corporative groups and partners will be very common in my classroom.

Homework:

Homework reinforces the ideas, facts, and skills that we learn during class time. It also helps to prepare you for future lessons. Homework will be assigned on a weekly basis and may consist of:

- Specific shorter lessons and handouts assigned by me
- Reading
- Writing practice
- Review for a test or quiz
- Ongoing projects, writing assignments, or reports (Longer assignments will be chunked into smaller parts and will include frequent check points to monitor progress.)

Late Work:

Late work can be turned in, but will receive point deduction. Work is expected to be turned in on time to earn full credit unless:

- You have an excused absence.
- You talk with me at least 24 hours *before* the due date and are granted the extension.
- You have a note from a parent/guardian with an acceptable reason why the work is late (traumatic event, family emergency, etc.) Sport performances, etc. are prior known choices, not acceptable reasons for late school work.

Absences:

In an effort to help our classroom run smoothly, I ask students to be proactive when class time is missed. This will help to build student's problem solving skills. Students will need to independently check the class website (teammcgrath.weebly.com) to find the day's missed class work, which will be posted under the "Class Calendar" and/or "Assignments" tabs.

Grading:

Summative-60% (Tests, Projects, ect.)

Formative- 40% (Class work, Quizzes, Group work, Exit Questions, ect.)

Diagnostic- 0% (Entry Quiz, TPT's, Homework, ect.)

Materials:

Please bring the following supplies to class every day. If you need help getting any of these materials, let me know privately, and I'll make sure you're all set!

- 1 Inch Binder (with Pockets)
- 1 Pack of Dividers
- College Ruled Notebook Paper
- Composition Notebook
- Highlighters
- Pens (Black or Blue Ink)
- Planner
- Unit Novel (if you choose to purchase your own)

Extra Help:

I want you to be successful in this class! If you need extra help, please ask for it. I will have an open door Wednesday mornings starting at 8:30. If Wednesday mornings don't work for your schedule, please see me privately to arrange a more convenient time. I am always here to help!

Please note that you can use Pinnacle and the class website (teammcgrath.weebly.com) to answer common questions:

- What's my grade?
- What's the homework tonight?
- Where can I get another handout?
- I might not be here tomorrow, what will I miss?

Grades and website will be updated regularly.