



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview
Accelerated Language Arts – Grade 7



General Information

Prerequisite: Student has met readiness level

Length: Full Year

Format: meets daily for one period

Grade: 7

Course Description

Accelerated LA allows high performing, highly motivated, and academically gifted students to pursue rigorous coursework that is tailored toward students who are performing two or more years above grade level expectations. Students are admitted to accelerated courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. This course builds on and extends the range of basic content from the on-grade-level language arts course and pursues skills and content from advanced grade levels. Students in this course will develop advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research. Rigorous in and out of class reading, challenging class discussions and a variety of writing experiences will be required. Summer assignments will also be required.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will read, understand, and respond to advanced informational text and works of literature– with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with a focus on textual evidence.
2. Students will develop the skills of informational, argumentative, and narrative writing at an advanced level.
3. Students will practice communication skills that enable critical listening and effective expression of ideas, including collaborative discussion, inquiry, and presentation.
4. Students will develop and refine advanced vocabulary skills to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
5. Students will practice grammatical conventions and apply them consistently as they write across all content areas.

For more detailed information on course objectives, please refer to Pennsylvania’s Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (Draft):

http://static.pdesas.org/content/documents/6-12_ELA_Standards_8-2-12_DRAFT.pdf

Common Assessments:

Vocabulary: Student will be regularly assessed in the Wordly Wise vocabulary program including unit tests, mid-term, and final. (CCS.7.L.4 , CCS.L.7.5, CCS.L.7.6)

Writing: Writing assessments will focus on the areas of emphasis identified by the Pennsylvania Common Core State Assessments including narrative, informative/explanatory, opinion/argumentative, and response to literature. This will be accomplished through both process and timed writing assessments. (CCS.W.7.1-5)

Reading literature and informational text: A midterm and final will require students to apply strategies, skills and terms to an unfamiliar text. (CCS.RL.7.1-6, CCS.RI.7.1-6)

Range of reading: A 25 book log will assess students' ability to read and comprehend literature, literary non-fiction and informational texts on and above grade level, reading independently and proficiently. (CCS.RL.7.10, CCS.RI.7.10)

Speaking and listening: Assessed by the RTSD speaking and Listening Rubric (CCS. SL.7.1)

Grading Policy for Accelerated Language Arts

Students can expect to be graded in the following areas. All points are approximate and are meant to reflect a balance between the different areas of language arts as well as on-demand and process assessments.

Each Quarter

Writing - 250 points

- Process
- On-demand

Reading – 250 points

- 25 Book Log
- Responses to Literature
- Tests, quizzes, projects

Vocabulary – 125 points

- *Wordly Wise* unit tests

Grammar – 80 points

- Tests and quizzes
- *Grammar is also evaluated within student writing.

Speaking and Listening – 30 points

- Whole group discussion, small group discussion, individual conferencing, and presentations

Homework – up to 30 points

Homework grades reflect completion of assignments and student effort.

Major Units of Study:

Units of study are organized in a manner that encourages students to make connections across complex skills, strategies and content.

- Unit 1: Method and Meaning in Fiction and Poetry
- Unit 2: Method and Meaning in Nonfiction
- Unit 3: Because I Said So: Crafting an Argument
- Unit 4: Hidden Messages: Symbolism and Imagery
- Unit 5: Tell Me a Story: The Art of Narrative Writing
- Unit 6: Drama On and Off the Page
- Unit 7: Fact and Fiction

The following units are year-long and run concurrently with core units.

- Ongoing Unit: Grammar
- Ongoing Unit: Vocabulary
- Ongoing Unit: Self-Selected Reading

Materials & Texts

The following are anticipated texts. Additions and deletions are possible.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton (common text)

The Call of the Wild by Jack London (common text)

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

The Miracle Worker by William Gibson

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation by M.T. Anderson

Selected poems from *Poetry in Three Dimensions: Book Two* and other sources

Literature circle and individualized reading selections based on student interest and reading level.

Grammar for Middle School: A Sentence- Composing Approach by Don and Jenny Kilgallon

Wordly Wise Book 8

Selected materials from Laying the Foundation, an organization that provides teacher resources

Criterion Online Writing Evaluation, a service that evaluates students' writing skills

Pow-word Up! A pre-AP/SAT vocabulary program implemented school-wide.

Summer Assignment

STUDENTS IN ACCELERATED LA SHOULD READ AT LEAST FOUR BOOKS OVER THE SUMMER. Two will be assigned; two will be student choice.