



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview
Language Arts – Grade 7



General Information

Prerequisite: Student has met readiness level

Length: Full year

Format: Meets daily for one period

Course Description

Seventh Grade Language Arts allows both on- and above- grade-level students to pursue rigorous coursework both at and above grade-level expectations. Students are admitted to these courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. This course is standard-based and designed to support students in meeting grade-level standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as reaching beyond those standards if they demonstrate readiness. In and out of class reading, research, challenging class discussions and a variety of writing experiences will be required.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to informational text such as essays, articles, and biographies.
2. Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to works of literature, including novels, stories, poetry, and drama.
3. Students will develop the skills of informational, argumentative, and narrative writing.
4. Students will engage in evidence-based analysis of text.
5. Students will focus on communication skills that enable critical listening and effective expression of ideas, including collaborative discussion, inquiry, and presentation.
6. Students will develop and refine advanced vocabulary skills to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
7. 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 his/her assigned vocabulary program including, unit tests, mid-term, and final. (CC.1.2.7 and CC.1.3.7)

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. (CC.1.4.7)

Reading literature and informational text: A midterm and final will require students to apply strategies, skills and terms to an unfamiliar text. (CC.1.2.7 and CC.1.3.7)

Range of reading: A 25 book log will assess students ability to read and comprehend literature, literary non-fiction and informational text at an appropriate grade level, reading independently and proficiently. (CC.1.2.7.L and CC.1.3.7.K)

Speaking and listening: Students will be assessed on communication skills that enable critical listening and effective expression of ideas, including collaborative discussion, inquiry, and presentation. This will be done using the RTSD Speaking and Listening Rubric (CC. 1.5.7)

Grading Policy: Grades in language arts are meant to reflect balance between the different areas of language arts as well as on-demand and process assessments.

Students will earn a grade in the course based on their achievement in the following areas:

- Writing
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Speaking and Listening
- Homework

Please see teacher web page or supplemental handouts for specifics related to each course grade.

Major Units of Study:

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

- Realistic Fiction
- Historical Fiction
- Poetry
- Writing Process
- Grammar Study
- Word Study

- Elements of Literature

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

- Self-selected reading
- Vocabulary
- Grammar

Materials & Texts

The following are the anticipated materials and texts. Additions and/or deletions are possible.

Textbooks:

- *Glencoe Literature: The Reader's Choice- Course 2*
- *Glencoe Writer's Choice: Grammar and Composition – Grade 7*
- Spelling and/or vocabulary program assigned based on student achievement:
 - *Zaner Blosier Spelling Connections - Grade 6*
 - *Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Lee Mountain (need exact info)*
 - *Robust Encounters with Vocabulary (REV it up!), Steck-Vaughn*

Sample Literature Selections:

- **The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton (common)*
- *Fever 1793, Laurie Halse Anderson*
- *The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros*
- *The Call of the Wild, Jack London (common)*
- **Poetry in Three Dimensions, Carol Clark and Alison Draper*
- *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie, Jordan Sonneblick*
- *Flipped, Wendelin Van Drannen*
- *Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli*
- *Tangerine, Edward Bloor*
- **The Pearl, John Steinbeck*
- *Travel Team, Mike Lupica*
- *Misfits, James Howe*
- **Black Storm Comin by Diane Lee Wilson*
- **Outliers, Malcolm Gladwell*
- Short stories by various authors with a focus on historical fiction and realistic fiction.
- Poems by various authors with a focus on a variety of different forms.
- Non-fiction readings that inform student understanding of literature.
- Teacher and Student Selected Literature
- Literature circle and individualized reading selections based on student interest and reading level.

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

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

Summer Assignment

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