

Bridgeport Elementary School

7th Grade English Language Arts

2023-24 Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor: Mrs. Jayna Webb

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Class Communication: Class Dojo

Aspen: Student grades and academic information is available throughout the year on Aspen. Each student will get a handout with this password at the beginning of each year.

Course Description

This course is a combination of language arts and literature. The literacy skills of **reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehending, and thinking** are taught. Students gain practice in **grammar, punctuation, and writing skills**. Assignments include all writing modes identified by the State of Tennessee: persuasive, narrative, and expository. Writing is a skill students will use throughout life, and writing, using critical evidence, can help students develop comprehension on various topics. Students will be taught how to develop ideas and organize them into a coherent work. Students will continue learning to use strong word choice, sentence fluency, and their own unique voice. Expanding vocabulary will also be a priority as this further enhances comprehension. In literature we read classic and contemporary literature, including short stories, dramas, and nonfiction. Personal connections, interpretations, and responses to literature are made to show understanding of the text.

Textbook & Course Materials

Provided Texts and Resources

- *Amplify Curriculum: Red Scarf Girl, Brain Science, Poetry and Poe, Gold Rush*
- *Call of the Wild*
- *Hidden Figures*
- Edulastic, and Moby Max will be used in the classroom for practice and review.

*Teacher will supply any required texts that will be used throughout the year. There is one class set provided, so students will not be bringing them home.

Online Resources

Cocke County School System Website: <http://www.cocke.k12.tn.us/>

TN State Standards 7th Grade:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/academic-standards/english-language-arts-standards.html>

Course Structure

This class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activity-based lessons.

Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes

- Student learning outcomes are listed in the table in Part 3 of the syllabus.
- As students master the standards, they will demonstrate independence; build strong content knowledge; respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline; comprehend as well as critique; value evidence; use technology and digital media strategically and capably; and come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

Overview of 7th Grade ELA

Nine Weeks	Unit	Approximate Time*
First Nine Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unit 1: Narrative Writing/Red Scarf Girl ○ Skills and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topic & Theme: The impact of individual experiences ○ Reading: Examine the differences between a character’s thoughts and actions ○ Writing: Use revision to strengthen elaboration ○ Activity Highlights: Use an app to trace a character’s level of hopefulness over the course of a text ○ Text Features: Memoir of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, historic propaganda images 	7 weeks
Second Nine Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unit 2: Informational Text/Brain Science ○ Skills and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topic and Theme: Brain development and brain disorders ○ Reading: Synthesize information from multiple texts to develop understanding of a topic ○ Writing: Describe facts, explain concepts, and convince the reader of an opinion 	6 weeks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activity Highlights: <i>Perception Academy Quest</i>, discussions to refine conceptual understanding ○ Text Features: Narrative and informational nonfiction about discoveries in brain science ○ Unit 3: Poetry and Poe ○ Skills and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topic and Theme: Reading like a movie director ○ Reading: Evaluate the reliability of a fictional narrator ○ Writing: Compare and contrast characters’ perspectives on a narrative ○ Activity Highlights: Use a storyboarding app, debate narrator’s sanity, compare film adaptations ○ Text Features: American poetry and gothic literature with unreliable narrators 	<p>6 weeks</p>
<p>Third Nine Weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unit 4: Novel Unit – Call of the Wild ○ Skills and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build background and Collaborative Discussion ○ Aspects of a character ○ Citing relevant evidence ○ Determine central idea in a text ○ Provide an objective summary ○ Determine author’s point of view/purpose ○ Impact of specific words on meaning and tone 	<p>6 weeks</p>
<p>Fourth Nine Weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unit 5: Gold Rush Collection ○ Skills and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topic and Theme: The characters and conditions of the California Gold Rush ○ Reading: The hopes vs. the realities of the gold rush for a diverse group of people ○ Writing: Develop a question, conduct research, and create a multimedia project 	<p>5 weeks</p>

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*This is subject to change at the teacher’s discretion.

Part 4: Grading Policy

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to find out what they missed. They will have three days to turn assignments in to teacher.

Viewing Grades in ASPEN

Passwords for Aspen are given at the beginning of the year. You may view grades in Aspen.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
B	85 -92%	Above Average Work
C	75-84%	Average Work
D	70-74%	Below Average Work
F	0-69%	Significantly Below Average Work

Important note: For more information about grading for Coker County Schools, visit the academic policies and grading section of the school system website.

Part 5: Course Policies

Attend Class

- Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar.
- Attendance will be part of each student’s final grade.

Participate

- Class participation is a very important part of the learning process in this class. Although not explicitly graded, you will be evaluated on the **Quality** of your participation and attendance.
- An assessment of your participation will be used to manage borderline grades.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Incomplete Policy

Please refer to the Cocke County School Board policy listed on the Cocke County Schools Website.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.
2. Teachers have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.
3. Teachers who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the teachers believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or

examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned.

Student Testing Code of Ethics and Security

It is important for you as a student to know that the following guidelines are to be strictly followed. This year the TNReady test will count at least 10% of your final semester grade. Your work on this test is very important and it deserves your best effort.

I understand that during testing on the days of the assessment, I am responsible for:

- Not having any electronic devices on me or in my purse/backpack/pockets
 - Including but not limited to cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc. **during testing or during breaks.**
 - Best practice is for students to leave devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.
 - If I am caught with a device during testing or during breaks, my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
- Trying my best on the test
 - If I do not attempt to test (I give **no answers or randomly answer** questions) my test score may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
 - The testing administrators and proctors in the testing environment will determine if no answers or random answering is taking place.
 - I will focus and put forth effort on the test.
- Being honest and not cheating
 - If I am caught cheating (taking pictures of the test, writing down and passing answers, talking to other students, looking on other computers, using software outside the testing platform), my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

Course policies are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in the classroom.