

# English 7 Course Syllabus

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## **I Philosophy of Course:**

The goal of the seventh grade English curriculum is to help the individual discovery of self through literature and to develop as an independent thinker and communicator.

## **II Content:**

Seventh grade English will introduce students to the various genres of literature. Course work will include reading, vocabulary, grammar, essays, presentations, projects, quizzes, tests, and creative writing.

### **Literature Strand**

Literature: *Timeless Voices*, a Prentice-Hall text, is the primary text used to teach literary terms introduced through short stories.

Students will select from several novels to read for reading circles. The class will read and interpret Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

### **Language Strand**

The Language aspect of this course will include participating in oral presentations and group discussions, practicing standard English spelling, grammar and usage, as well as vocabulary building.

#### Grammar

Grammar exercises will focus on: the eight parts of speech, sentence structure, and usage and punctuation.

#### Vocabulary

Vocabulary will be a course in Latin and Greek root words in order to improve decoding, spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. Students will demonstrate the ability to use new vocabulary through vocabulary quizzes, written work and speech.

### **Composition Strand**

There will generally be at least one writing-related assignment per week; this may include brainstorming, outlining, writing a rough draft, peer conferencing, or revising. Students will write creative pieces, opinion papers, and formal essays.

### **Media Strand**

Literature is just one medium in which language is used, so students will study the effect of other media. Various media will be used for research and presentations.

### **III Homework**

Daily work is assigned every day in English. Students are expected to continue the work at home if the assignment/s requires additional time outside of class to be completed.

All seventh grade students have a standing homework assignment of reading for 30 minutes at least 4 nights a week. Students will be held accountable for reading through reading logs and/or literature circle assignments.

### **IV Evaluations**

Student grades will be broken down into the following categories:

30% Tests

30% Essays and Projects

20% Quizzes and In-class Writing

20% Class Participation (class-work, homework, and class discussions)