

Grade 7 ELA Overview...

Seventh grader readers are challenged to improve their critical thinking skills with thoughtful reading of texts that can then be expressed clearly both in class discussions and in their writing. Seventh graders build on previous reading skills and endeavor to apply those skills to in-depth analysis of several texts on the same topic or theme. They will examine multiple texts focusing on characterization, setting, and author's accounts of events. Students will continue to cite textual evidence that supports their analysis of texts.

Developing a writer's voice is an important focus for seventh graders. They will further develop and craft their strategies for writing argumentative, informative, and narrative pieces. Furthermore, students will maintain a writing style appropriate for the task, audience, and purpose.

Units of Study: These units are intended to foster students' ability to: read and comprehend a range of increasingly complex texts; seek answers through critical analysis of text; communicate ideas effectively in writing to suit a particular audience and purpose; develop the habit of reading for enjoyment; understand the power of words and images to transform lives and provide insight into the experiences of others and understanding of cultures and historical periods.

Learning to Write from Writers: Students read short stories, paying particular attention to how writers develop events, and model their own writing on the use of effective techniques, descriptive details, and well-structured sequences in those texts.

The Civil Rights Movement; Using Literary and Informational Text to Learn from the Past: Students delve into this pivotal period in American history in order to better understand the present. Students read historical fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, view actual footage, and listen to speeches in order to think, talk and write about The Civil Rights Movement.

Who Are You?: Students consider questions by reading, discussing, and responding to various biographies about people who utilized false identities.

The Holocaust; Using Literary and Informational Text to Learn from the Past: Students read, write, and discuss fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in order to consider the impact of this time in history.

Deliberating Dystopia: Reading a novel, set in the future, allows students to discuss and decide what should and should not be sacrificed in the name of creating a perfect society.

Life as a Teenager: Using novels that portray realistic characters and situations, students read, think, talk, and write about growing up in a changing world.

Exploring the Element of Suspense in Adventure Stories: While reading and discussing an adventure novel, students notice and analyze how the element of suspense contributes to the effectiveness of the narrative.

Persuade Me: In this multi-media unit, students learn to become discerning consumers by examining the techniques employed by advertisers.

Preparation for Standardized Assessment: In this unit of study, students prepare for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment.

Narrative Writing: Students utilize effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences in narrative writing. A seventh grade focus for writing narrative is further development of voice.

Argument Writing: Students will take a stance on a topic, articulate a claim and logically support that claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Informative Writing: Students will write informative pieces to examine a topic, convey ideas, concepts, and information by selecting, organizing, and analyzing relevant content.

Literary Analysis: Students will write essays based on their reading to present and develop a central idea and use evidence and details from the texts to support their thesis.

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