

Welcome to English Language Arts 7 for the 2020-2021 School Year!

 Amy Raiola

I am so happy to have you in my class! Here is a little bit about what to expect.

Course Overview

- ❖ Reading- We will be reading a ton of short stories, articles, and texts, both independently and with classmates. It is my hope that if you have not yet found your favorite book, you will find it this year! We'll be learning how to read closely, to stop and notice things in the text, and to communicate effectively about texts in conversation and in writing. Students will set reading goals for themselves and continuously chart their progress in order to determine their growth.
- ❖ Writing- We have so much planned for this year! We're going to write real and imagined stories, write a "novel", analyze literature, conduct research, communicate about reading in various ways, create a TED Talk video, and so much more! We'll also work on grammar and mechanics that will help us grow as writers.

Course Objectives

By the end of this class, you will be able to:


- ❖ Understand the various elements of fiction and nonfiction and be able to explain how these elements contribute to the development of the text
- ❖ Compare and contrast multiple forms of fiction and nonfiction
- ❖ Analyze historical fiction and nonfiction
- ❖ Analyze and evaluate claims and evidence in reading and writing in order to determine if evidence is both sufficient and relevant to the topic
- ❖ Engage in collaborative discussions to deepen understanding


Daily Schedule


Daily Live Instruction- AM	50 minute lesson that begins on Google Meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Opening Activity● Mini Lesson and modeling● Independent work time● Wrap Up/Exit Slip
Daily Academic Support- PM	As directed- small groups, individual meetings, appointment requests

Attendance and Participation

Students are required to attend class according to their scheduled school time. Attendance will be taken on Google Meet, so please make every effort to be on time. Assignments will usually be posted for the week so that it will be easier to manage your time. All assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. Check due dates!

 Course Communication	
Class Announcements	Google Classroom
Email	Email me at araiola@marsd.org and I will get back to you as soon as possible.
Twitter and Instagram	Twitter and Instagram: @Ms_Raiola
General Questions	If you have a question about the course or an assignment, I encourage you to post your question in the Google Classroom "stream." The stream is visible to the entire class community, so I encourage you to ask and answer questions there. If a classmate asks a question and you know the answer, please jump in and help them out!
Online Discussions	Online discussions are an opportunity for you to interact with and learn from your peers. The class will regularly engage in conversations about the course content. You are expected to post thoughtful, respectful, and well-written responses to the discussion questions and reply thoughtfully to at least two other students per discussion.

 Required Texts, Materials, and Online Accounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chromebook ● Google Classroom: This will be the learning management system for our students this year. Most assignments will be turned in through here. ● Google Meet: This is where we hold class daily. ● Sites we might use for communication: Flipgrid, Padlet, PearDeck ● Sites we might use for reading: Newsela, CommonLit, ReadWorks, GetEpic

 Grading Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Percentages for grading will follow the MAMS guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tests/Projects 55% ○ Quizzes/Classwork 35% ○ Homework 10% ● Assignments will be graded with rubrics. Rubrics will be given out prior to assignments and posted on Google Classroom. ● Students must maintain academic integrity, aka: Do your own work! If you share an assignment, you can share a grade. If you steal someone else's work to pass off as your own, they have earned a grade, not you.

Curriculum Map		
Week/Month	Reading	Writing
6 weeks Sept to mid-October	Launching- Informational/ Identity Unit Focus Standards: RI.7.1 (introduced), RI.7.2, RI.7.3, RI.7.4 (introduced), RI.7.6, W.7.9 Mentor Texts : varied	Memoir Focus Standards: W.7.4, W.7.5, W.7.6
6 weeks mid-October to first week in December	Deep Study of Character (Global Read Aloud)/Book Clubs Focus Standards: RL.7.1 (introduced), RL.7.2, RL.7.3, RL.7.6, RL.7.9, W.7.9 Mentor Text: Prairie Lotus	Narrative Writing- NaNoWriMo: Picture Book "Novel" Focus Standards: W.7.3
December	Mini Poetry Unit (Reading only) Focus Standards: RL.7.3, RL.7.4, RL.7.5	
6 weeks- Jan to mid-February	Historical Fiction/Book Clubs Focus Standards: RL.7.2, RL.7.3, RL.7.6, RL.7.9, W.7.9 Possible Mentor Text: Milkweed, Chains	Literary Analysis Focus Standards: W.7.1, W.7.9
4 weeks mid-Feb to mid-March	Informational Text- structure & features Focus Standards: RI.7.2, RI.7.3, RI.7.5, W.7.9	RST- argumentative Focus Standards: RI.7.7, RI.7.8, RI.7.9, W.7.1, W.7.8
6 weeks mid-March- end of April	Nonfiction/Book Clubs Focus Standards: RI.7.5, RI.7.7, RI.7.8, RI.7.9	Informative- Research Focus Standards: W.7.2, W.7.7, W.7.8
May	Drama Focus Standards: RL.7.3, RL.7.4, RL.7.5	
June	Short Fiction Review of RL. 7.2, RL7.3, RL7.5	Poetry Writing/Performance W.7.3 W.7.4



Looking forward to a great year!

~Ms. Raiola