

7th Grade Language Arts 2018-2019

Upper Mississippi Academy

Ms. Elizabeth Brown

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Language Arts 7 2018-2019

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” -Charles William Eliot

Through this 7th grade Language Arts course, students will engage and interact with multiple forms of communication to enhance reading and writing skills. Through the year, students will explore deeply all areas of literature, honing in on the understanding of both writing and reading fictional literature. As we move through US History, we will study a variety of different texts, exploring larger concepts such as man’s state of nature and what justice and injustice have looked like throughout time. Writing skills will be honed through formal and informal writing assignments and projects. This 7th grade Language Arts course is all about exploring, within books, within writing, throughout the history of this country.

**Units and Standards**

Unit 1: Lord of the Flies and Understanding Fiction Unit

Anchor Texts: “The Lottery,” Shirley Jackson; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding; other supplemented short stories. Writing Standard 7.7.3.3

Unit 2: Lewis and Clark Exploration

        Anchor Texts: supplemented non-fiction texts. Writing Standard 7.7.9.9

Unit 3: A Country Divided: Civil War Literature

Anchor Texts: *A Soldier’s Heart* by Gary Paulsen. Writing Standard 7.7.2.2

Unit 4: Jim Crow and Pre-War

Anchor Texts: *Witness*, Jim Crow non-fiction readings.

Unit 5: Perspectives of WWII

Anchor Texts: Book of Choice (examples: *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Code Talker*, *Sarah’s Key*, *The Book Thief*), supplemented non-fiction texts. Writing Standard 7.7.1.1

Unit 6: Civil Rights Era

        Anchor Texts: Warriors Don’t Cry; Protest song

**Assessments**

Student grades will be made up of a combination of both formative (daily work, journaling, participation, etc.) and summative assessments (quizzes, projects, larger writing assignments, tests) throughout the year. Many assessments will be in the form of informal quizzes and tracking throughout a unit. Each unit will end with a final assessment, which could be a written assignment, a variety of different types of projects or a test.

**Grades**

Grades in this class will be determined by points earned through both formative and summative assignments. While this does not follow a weighted model, summative assignments will be worth points and impact the overall grade for the class more than formative assignments will. Estimated balance of grades is as shown below:

Daily Assignments: 40% Assessments: 40% Participation: %20

Ms. Brown uses a grading scale that is generally used by Upper Mississippi classrooms.

94% and above A

90% and above A-

87% and above B+

84% and above B

80% and above B-

77% and above C+

74% and above C

70% and above C-

67% and above D+

64% and above D

60% and above D-

59% and below F

**Classroom Policies**

Students are expected to be good contributors to the classroom environment by:

* Being good listeners, (including being respectful of others thoughts and ideas)
* Have a positive attitude
* Come to class prepared; be ready to learn at the start of class!
* Be respectful (to the classroom, peers, teachers, and yourself)
* Participate! Let us benefit from your knowledge and thoughts, but only if proceeded by you raising your hand. ☺

**Phones**

Generally, phones are prohibited during class time. If a cell phone is seen, it will be collected and returned to the student at the end of the class period. Ms. Brown will determine circumstances in which cell phones are allowed during class use.

**Absences**

If a student in absent, it is their responsibility to make up the work they missed. Assignments will be posted on the Google Classroom and Ms. Brown’s website and extra copies of paper assignments can be found in class. Assignments due on the day of the absence must be turned in one the day the student returns to school.

**Late Work**

All assignments and projects will be docked 5% off the final grade for each day late. After two

weeks, they will no longer be accepted.

All assessments (projects, tests, etc) may be retaken or redone for credit. You will have a week

from when the graded assessment is returned to retake or redo. Your final grade will be an

average of your original grade and your retake. It is up to you to arrange a retake!

**Books**

In this class, you will be responsible to books assigned to you or loaned from my classroom. If you lose a book or damage it while it is in your possession, it will be your responsibility to replace it. Be kind to our books, and they will be kind to you ☺