



Southmoreland School District

7th Grade Language Arts Curriculum Overview

7th Grade Language Arts Overview:

At this level, 7th-grade English Language Arts students will develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will increase their ability to analyze and synthesize various texts, improve their reading ability, and become more proficient writers. Students will engage in analyzing and discussing literature in terms of plot, characterization, theme, figurative language, and symbolism, building on previous knowledge. Students will reflect on their personal writing portfolio using the writing process, and they will enhance their public speaking skills through reflections, presentations, and academic discussions.

Module Titles:

Module 1: Plot

Module 2: Characterization

Module 3: Theme - Novel Unit

Module 4: Argumentative Writing

Module 5: Analyzing Nonfiction

Module 6: Poetry/ Figurative Language

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Plot

Students analyze and interpret the elements of Plot: exposition, rising actions, climax, falling action, and resolution of four short stories. The students will read the stories and use a plot diagram to plot the elements. They will analyze how the plot affects the characters and how the setting affects the plot of the story. They will discover how the plot leads to the theme, and write an analysis using evidence from the text to support their ideas. They will engage in activities in small and large groups using graphic organizers and discussion questions. Each student will have a group role in reading groups to perform.

Module 2: Characterization

In this module, the students will learn to analyze character using the STEAL method of characterization. They will analyze the difference between indirect and direct characterization while also diving into character motivation. The goal of this analysis is to interpret the character's traits and distinguish between round, flat, static, and dynamic character. They develop a new vocabulary through activities, practice, creative



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assignments, and the use of the TOP 20 Character Trait Words for 7th graders. They will read and analyze 3 short stories and one teleplay interpreting the character traits and types of several characters. Students will engage in these activities through group reading, modeling, and creative writing. They will synthesize their knowledge of character when they write an analysis of the most dynamic character in the unit - Mary Maloney.

Module 3: Theme - Novel Unit

In this module, the students will read the novel, *A Long Way from Chicago*, by Richard Peck. The students will analyze the theme or message of each chapter in this novel, building upon previously learned skills - plot and characterization. Students will expand on characterization and plot development, seeing these elements as a driving force for theme. They will engage in many creative assignments through partner and group reading activities dealing with thematic elements. They will enhance their writing portfolio with theme analysis responses. The students will read *The Pigman*, by Paul Zindel, interpreting and analyzing the common themes: transitioning from childhood to adulthood, loss and grief, family problems, accountability, and life's purpose.

Module 4: Argumentative Writing

The students will explore the elements that make up a piece of argumentative writing in this module. They develop and utilize a new vocabulary in this module pertaining to argument terminology: Argument, Counterargument, claim, rebuttal, Audience, Bridge, Warrant, Editorial, refutation/ rebuttal, primary resource, secondary resource, logic, evidence, stereotype, generalization. The students will read and analyze several editorials utilizing newsela.com and will watch and analyze several debates. Culminating, They will engage in a debate of their choice, demonstrating the argument skills developed.

Module 5: Analyzing Nonfiction

In this module, the students will read and analyze nonfiction texts through the use of newsela.com and commonlit.org. They will identify the main idea and text structure of each text. The students will explore the nuances of nonfiction in reading groups, with partners, and independently, using graphic organizers, station work, and manipulatives. Concluding, the students will create a "Graffiti Wall," showcasing their mastery of main idea/ text structure.



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Module 6: Poetry/ Figurative Language

In this module, students will interpret many poems from diverse authors ranging from classical to modern. Students will analyze figurative language, mood, imagery, symbolism, and sound devices in order to interpret the poem's meaning and message. They will engage in activities that allow them to use music, illustrations, and other art forms to analyze meaning and showcase their own creativity through poetry contests and read -alouds. Finally, they will add to their writing portfolio a creative poetry project, and a comparison/ contrast essay analyzing two poems with a common theme showcasing their new skills.