

Language Arts: Grade 7

Text:	Chin, Beverly Ann, Wolfe, Denny, et al. (2002): <i>The Reader's Choice</i> , Glencoe/McGraw-Hill: New York, NY Designated reading books
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Supplemental Materials:	Glencoe McGraw Hill, <i>Teacher's Wraparound Edition</i> , <i>Reader's Choice</i> Teacher created worksheets, quizzes, and tests Vocabulary Cartoons, SAT word power McGraw Hill Literature Series, <i>Focus</i> , 1985 Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop, Level C (for reference)
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Course Description:	The seventh grade Language Arts Skills (LAS) course is designed to stimulate an interest in reading and develop an appreciation for the various literary genres. The course focuses on exposing students to a variety of literary genres, encouraging written and oral responses to the literature, promoting higher levels of reading comprehension, and exposing literary techniques used by authors. A strong emphasis will be placed on vocabulary and reading skills. Through vocabulary studies and studying writing techniques, students will become more effective communicators through written and oral expression.
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Methods of Evaluation:	Students can be evaluated through tests, quizzes, homework and classwork and through teacher observation or any other form of evaluation the instructor finds applicable to the course.
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Pace of Instruction:	
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Course Objectives:	To improve writing skills, students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. demonstrate the correct use of Standard English in written work2. conduct research and summarize or paraphrase without plagiarizing3. document sources using a bibliography4. write effective sentences, including supporting5. sentences of paragraphs and responses to6. questions7. write effective paragraphs (topic sentence, supporting sentences and concluding sentence or transition)8. use the writing process (prewriting, writing, revising, editing and publishing) when creating a written work for class projects.9. apply different styles of writing, such as description and compare and contrast writing, by responding to novels.10. write informal journal entries in personally responding to literature.
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To improve reading skills, students will:

1. use context clues; to use the meaning of known words to identify meaning of unknown words.
2. identify and analyze similarities and differences in traditional literature from different cultures (compare and contrast)
3. develop inferences, supporting them with references to the text
4. draw logical conclusions, based on evidence
5. predict outcomes, both written and orally, using evidence, foreshadowing and inferences.
6. summarize and retell information read.
7. distinguish between fact and opinion.
8. understand cause and effect.
9. gather information from a passage and interpret the meaning of it.
10. identify main ideas and supporting details in selected short stories and short passages.
11. explain and analyze the effects of sound, form, and figurative language in order to uncover meaning in literature.
12. understand literal interpretations of short passages, short stories, plays and novels.
13. promote critical thinking, creative thinking, and problem solving related to the text.
14. keep an organized reading response notebook on selected stories and novels.
15. invite responses to literature, including personal opinions, questions, and observations, in a supportive and mutually respectful environment.
16. select reading materials based on personal interest.
17. explore ideas of interesting people, places and things from the past, present and future through oral and silent reading.
18. explore multicultural literature.
19. identify and appreciate elements of style, including how a writer achieves a particular effect.
20. identify literary devices, such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, foreshadowing, alliteration, and assonance and understand their functions in the work of literature.
21. practice and improve oral reading speed.
22. practice and improve oral reading accuracy.
23. use knowledge of letters and sounds to determine pronunciation of unfamiliar words.
24. use self-monitoring and self-correcting strategies when reading aloud.
25. read in a way that makes meaning clear to listeners (with a rhythm and flow that sounds like everyday speech)
26. adjust voice when reading aloud.

To improve literary appreciation and skills, students will:

1. identify/discuss a work of fiction, including realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy and science fiction.
2. identify/discuss the nonfiction genre, including biographies, memoirs, autobiographies, newspapers and magazines.
3. identify/discuss the poetry genre
4. identify/discuss the folktale genre and the oral tradition, including myths, legends, tall tales and fairy tales.
5. identify/discuss the genre of drama
6. study both traditional and contemporary works of literature
7. locate a particular genre in the library
8. identify and discuss setting and its importance in a story or novel
9. relate a literary work to information about its setting or historical moment.
10. understand and apply the components of a plot (conflict, rising action, climax, resolution)
11. describe events that advance the plot and determine how each event explains past or present action(s) or foreshadows future action(s).
12. identify static and dynamic characters
13. identify main characters (protagonist and antagonist)
14. analyze characterization (dynamic and static) through a character's thoughts, words, speech patterns, and actions, the narrator's description; and the thoughts, words and actions of other characters.
15. interpret a character's traits, emotions or motivations and give supporting evidence from a text.
16. identify theme in a literary work using evidence from the text.
17. identify and analyze how an author's use of words creates tone and mood, giving supporting evidence from the text
18. identify point of view and perspective of a story.
19. distinguish between first person, second person, third person, third person omniscient and third person limited narrators
20. identify and explain author's use of dialogue and how it makes stories come alive.
21. complete graphic organizer on components of plot (short story and novel)

To improve vocabulary skills, students will:-

1. understand and acquire new vocabulary and use it in speaking and writing.
2. use context clues in determining the meaning of unknown words.
3. understand roots, prefixes and suffixes
4. complete analogies
5. identify synonyms and antonyms
6. identify part of speech for vocabulary words
7. identify spelling strategies and patterns
8. increase understanding of unfamiliar vocabulary in literature
9. learn spelling techniques

To improve speaking and listening skills, students will:

1. give oral presentations or dramatic interpretations for various purposes.
2. organize information in a presentation to achieve a particular purpose
3. present information in a way that appeals to the interest of the audience
4. use appropriate volume, pacing, gestures and visuals in a presentation
5. express ideas clearly and effectively in a variety of oral contexts and apply listening skills in the analysis and evaluation of spoken ideas.
6. utilize, read or view media/technology and analyze contents accurately.