



# Grade 7 English Language Arts with Mrs. Dillon

## Course Description

Reading: This year's curriculum will incorporate student-centered activities related to both fiction and informational texts. Along with short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfiction articles, students will read the following larger texts:

- *Touching Spirit Bear* a novel by Ben Mikaelson
- *A Christmas Carol* a play adapted by Israel Horovitz
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* a novel by John Boyne
- *The Outsiders* a novel by S. E. Hinton

Writing: Students will use the John Collins writing program. Considering different audiences and purposes, students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative compositions. Writing assignments will include paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays.

- There will be a focus on including evidence from a text when writing.
- Students will be assigned focus correction areas (FCAs). These are specific, targeted skills that students should focus on when writing.
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization will be assessed on writing assignments. Yes, spelling counts!

## Student Expectations

Students should follow the rules outlined in the 7th grade team student contract and the Memorial Middle School Handbook. Be respectful! Be responsible! Be your best!

## Materials

- Charged Chromebook
- ELA Pocket Folder (with brads/prongs)
- Lined Notebook Paper (inside the folder)
- Home/School Folder (cleaned out nightly!)
- Blue or Black Ink Pens and/or Pencils with Erasers
- School-Provided Planner
- Earbuds/Headphones are ONLY allowed when the teacher says so! (not required)
- Highlighters, Markers, Glue, and Colored Pencils (useful but not required)

## Grades

Assignments are weighted as follows:

Tests and Major Assignments: 50%

Quizzes: 25%

Classwork and Participation: 15%

Homework: 10%

Students and parents should check ASPEN regularly to monitor grades, missing assignments, and current averages. I DO NOT use the gradebook on Google Classroom!

## Homework

Homework will be assigned on most days. The homework is often to finish the classwork, so it is beneficial to get as much work as possible done in class.

You should write the homework in your planner daily. You can find the homework written on the whiteboard in the classroom and posted on Google Classroom.

Students are expected to turn in work on time. Late work will receive half credit. If a student is absent for class, he/she may turn in all work for full credit within one week. It is the student's responsibility to use Google Classroom and Aspen to obtain all make-up work. Completing make-up work during Enrichment & Intervention is helpful.

<p><b>YOU <u>MUST</u> NOTIFY THE TEACHER IN WRITING (EMAIL OR PAPER) IF SOMETHING IS TURNED IN LATE!! OTHERWISE, I WILL NOT SEE IT.</b></p>
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## Extra Help

Students can request extra help during the Enrichment & Intervention period in the daily schedule. You can sign up by yourself in Advisory, or you can ask me to assign you a day. Students can also attend the school's after school Homework Club offered on some weekdays.

## Communication

Email: [ldillon@town.hull.ma.us](mailto:ldillon@town.hull.ma.us) (the best way to reach me)

Phone: (781) 925-2040 (extension 2238)