



**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!**

I am pleased to take this opportunity to welcome your student to 7th grade English at Cornwall Central Middle School. This school year will be an exciting year filled with engaging and thought provoking texts, as well as, writing activities that will allow your child's creativity and insight to shine.

**7th Grade English Language Arts**

English Language Arts is a subject area that incorporates lesson plans and student activities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. I am looking forward to the upcoming school year, building upon the skills students mastered last year, and helping students achieve new competencies in the English Language Arts subject area.

I have spent much of the summer months reading and taking professional development courses that address the unique demands of teaching and learning in 2023. I feel confident that I will be able to create a meaningful, productive, and safe learning environment for your student and I look forward to getting to know your child as a learner and as an individual.

**Fun Fact and Helpful Tips**

A fun fact to know about me is that I have two school age children and one of them is in middle school! This situation has made me acutely aware of the challenges and stressors that arise for middle schoolers. If you or your child ever feel overwhelmed and stressed, please reach out to me. I am more than happy to modify the assignment in a way that makes your child feel accomplished and proud, not stressed and defeated.

**Looking Forward**

Please know that my number one priority is to make my students feel safe, engaged, challenged, and proud of the work they will accomplish this school year. With that in mind, I feel that a positive learning experience is built on a collaborative effort between parents/guardians, students, and teachers. Please know that I am here to support your child throughout this school year and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you or your child may have.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carrie Daley

[cdaley@cornwallschools.com](mailto:cdaley@cornwallschools.com)

# Grade 7 English Language Arts Syllabus

Mrs. Daley

Cornwall Central Middle School

2023-2024



## Course Description:

Seventh grade English Language Arts is a combination of lesson plans and activities in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing. This course is divided into four Thematic Units. The Workshop Model of Instruction will be utilized to deliver engaging, student centered lessons and tasks. English Lessons are standards based, using the Next Generation Learning Standards for English Language Arts. Reading Workshop includes reading short stories, poetry, nonfiction texts, and class novels. Writing Workshop incorporates prompt writing, the writing process, and mini lessons that focus on voice, style, adding details, grammar skills, and revision skills. Students will create a writing portfolio that contains the following types of writing: literary responses, research report, argumentative essays, informational writing, poetry, narrative writing, and others.

## Required Daily Material:

- One Binder
- Marble Notebook (Response Notebook)
- English Work Folder
- A charged chromebook
- Pen, Pencil, Highlighter
- Independent Reading Book

## Thematic Units and Central Texts Grade 7 English

- ★ Unit 1 Facing Adversity- *Elements of Plot*-a variety of short stories, non-fiction texts, and poetry.
- ★ Unit 2 Turning Points and Transformations-*A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley* (play)-Charles Dickens, *Gift of the Magi*- O. Henry, *The Treasure of Lemon Brown*- Walter Dean Myers, other excerpts/selections.
- ★ Unit 3 Taking a Stand/ Argumentative Writing- *Novel Study: Freak the Mighty*-Rodman Philbrick (**General**), *Gathering Blue*-Lois Lowry (**Accelerated**) and nonfiction articles with argumentative topics.
- ★ Unit 4 Folktales and Fairytales: A Cinderella Story, Multicultural Unit- *Cinderella (The Little Glass Slipper)*-Charles Perault, *a variety of multicultural Cinderella Stories*, and a variety of short stories, non-fiction, poetry.

### **Academic Expectations:**

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all required daily materials. In the event of a brief absence, students are to contact me as soon as possible and check the absent work folder located in the front of the classroom upon their return. Important to note, students are expected to maintain academic integrity at all times. Work that is copied or plagiarized is not permitted and will not be accepted.

### **Grading Scale:**

- Writing Assignments and Projects\* - 40%
- Quizzes and Tests\* - 40%
  - ◆ \*Students may choose to make corrections/revisions to improve their grade after teacher conference
- Classwork and Homework\*\* - 20%
  - ◆ \*\*Homework will be assigned when there is a need to complete classwork activities and/or readings **or** if there is a particular skill or concept that needs reinforcement. Homework assignments will be posted in our Google Classroom Stream as a reminder.

### **Independent Reading- Twenty Five Books Campaign:**

*Students are encouraged to:*

- Self select independent reading books
- Read an independent reading book for a minimum 20 minutes each day. This is your daily homework assignment.
- Conference with the teacher to check for appropriate reading level and comprehension.
- Maintain an updated Annotated Bibliography of their finished texts.

### **The Young Novelist Project:**

The Young Novelist Project is a year-long writing project modeled after the NANOWRIMO writing project. This project is a fun and empowering approach to creative writing that challenges students to write a 10,000 word novel over the course of the school year. Each month, students will be guided through the process of narrative writing. Students will brainstorm, draft, revise, edit, and publish their novels. The end of the school year will include a YNP celebration in which students will receive a bound copy of their novel.

### **Contact Information:**

- ❖ Mrs. Daley [cdaley@cornwallschools.com](mailto:cdaley@cornwallschools.com). I check my email at the beginning and end of each school day.

### **Google Classroom:**

Please add our English Google Classroom to your school Google account by Friday, September 8th.

**English Period:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Google Classroom Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

