

Immaculate Heart Middle School
Syllabus for Seventh Grade English & Literature
Ms. Zenaida Alonso
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This course is designed to improve the student's use of both written and spoken English. Students will enhance reading comprehension and critical thinking through various types of literature.



Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Students completing course work for writing, speaking, and listening will:

- Write and speak using Standard English conventions appropriate to grade level.
- Identify parts of speech and sentence structures.
- Demonstrate correct use of punctuation and capitalization.
- Use correct spelling applying the spellings of bases and affixes to root words and also by utilizing a dictionary and spell check.
- Place modifiers properly, use the active voice, identify and use infinitives and participles, make clear references between pronouns and antecedents.
- Write and present to the class or groups organized, coherent narratives, responses to literature, persuasive compositions, and summaries.
- Exercise speaking techniques including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation and eye contact for effective presentations.
- Organize information in presentations to appeal to the audience.
- In writing include strong introductions and conclusions, concrete details and main ideas, and commentaries.
- Utilize editing and revision to improve the overall content, organization, and vocabulary.
- Give credit for quoted and paraphrased information with proper citations.
- Use word-processing skills or carefully written cursive.
- During class discussions, determine the speakers' or authors' attitudes conveyed in their presentations or literature and ask probing questions.

Students completing course work for vocabulary, reading and literature will:

- Use knowledge of word origins, in addition to context clues to determine the definition of vocabulary.
- Interpret word meanings through the use of definition, example, restatement or contrast.
- Recognize idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes in prose and poetry.
- Read, understand, and respond to various forms of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science.
- Identify and analyze recurring themes and purpose in literary works.
- Analyze character's thoughts, words, actions or those of other characters by the author or narrator's description.

- Recognize events that advance the plot and conclude how each event explains past or present actions or foreshadows future actions.

Policies and Procedures

Grades:

Students will earn class grades by completing homework, class work, oral and written presentations, tests, quizzes and semester examinations. Any oral and written presentations will be graded on a rubric that will be given to students in advance. Active participation in class will aid in the class grade. The following grade scale will be used:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

Below 60% = F

Homework:

Homework will be assigned to students on a daily basis and will always be listed on the classroom whiteboard as well as on the school website. Homework will not be accepted more than two days after the due date and will be marked down 10% each day it is overdue. Do not do your homework in class on the day that it is due; if this occurs your homework will not be received and will be given an automatic zero.

Tests and Quizzes:

Tests and quizzes will be given to students covering grammar, vocabulary, and literature. The dates of tests and quizzes will be posted on the classroom whiteboard and the school website. Study guides for the tests and quizzes will be given to the students in advance to aid in their study time. Make-up tests will only be given to students who were absent on the day of the scheduled test.

Absences:

A student who has been absent must make-up all work that was missed while she was absent. All work that was missed due to the absence will be given a due date. It is **the student's responsibility** to obtain missed notes and assignments and to schedule make-up tests/quizzes with the teacher as she returns to school.

Extra Credit:

No extra credit is offered in this course.

Classroom Guidelines:

- Arrive to class on time. Room 110 is located in the basement so students should plan ahead, especially if traveling from the pool or Room 303.
- Enter the class prepared and ready to work. Immediately begin working on the class warm-up on the whiteboard.
- Treat others with respect.
- Treat the classroom with respect; before leaving class make sure to pick up after yourself.
- Do not be afraid to try something new or difficult!
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must present your thoughts in your own words.

Materials and Supplies:

- Three-ring binder with tabs for Homework, Notes, and Writing.
- Single subject spiral notebook or composition notebook
- 1 each – red, green, purple, and black pen (for structured paragraph writing).
- Blue/black pens for class work and homework.
- Book covers

Library:

Our class will be visiting the Immaculate Heart library one/two times each month. There is also a small classroom library students may be used.

Textbooks, Novels and Plays Provided for Course:

English Workshop, Holt, Rinehart and Winston

John Warriner's English Composition and Grammar, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich

Vocabulit: Reading Your Way to Word Power, Perfection Learning Corporation

Daily Oral Language, Great Source Education Group

Introduction to Literature, Ginn and Company

Tales from World Epics, Amsco Publications

Nine Muses, Modern Plays from Classic Myths, Perfection Learning Corporation

The Giver, Lois Lowry

Number the Stars, Lois Lowry

A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare

Dear Parents and Students,

Please sign and return the entire syllabus. If you have any questions please e-mail me at zalonso@immaculateheart.org.

~ Ms. Zenaida Alonso

We have read and understood the class syllabus for English & Literature 7.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____