

## GRADE 7 HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

### Course Description:

Grade 7 Honors Language Arts will offer the opportunity for:

- Increased rigor and interesting opportunities for academic growth for students who have demonstrated high potential and enjoyment of reading and writing
- Higher-level reading materials
- Vocabulary building
- Advanced writing skills
- Student discussion
- Strengthen speaking skills

Through the year, students will address essential questions such as "What is adversity?", "What are the many ways people face adversity?", and "What makes the human spirit resilient?"

Students will be required to complete two summer readings prior to the beginning of school and will be asked to complete approximately five hours per week of reading and writing outside of the classroom.

### Course Materials:

1. Summer Readings (These novels must be purchased by students.)
  - a. *The Schwa was Here* by Neal Shusterman, ISBN 9780142405772, Puffin, c. 2006.
  - b. *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson, 9780310214694, Zondervan, c. 1996. (Please note that this is the adult version.)
2. Holt Textbooks
  - a. *Elements of Literature, First Course*, (Grade 7) ISBN 30356660, Holt, c. 2005.
  - b. *Elements of Literature, Second Course*, (Grade 8) ISBN 30356679, Holt, c. 2005.
3. Materials will be utilized from each book to support various units, such as mythology, poetry, novels, non-fiction, etc.
4. *Poetry and Humanity* by Michael Clay Thompson, ISBN 9780880926621, Royal Fireworks Press, c. 2004. Built on the theme of understanding humanity and our existence, it shows how poets push language to its maximum in order to express those things about humanity that are most true, difficult, or subtle. Advanced rhyme, meter, and figures of speech are demonstrated through classic poetry. (Class set for in-class use)
5. *Word Within a Word, Level I*, by Michael Clay Thompson, ISBN, 9780880926041, Royal Fireworks Press, c. 2015. A challenging vocabulary development tool! (A book will be purchased by each student as a consumable workbook.)
6. Novels (These novels will be purchased by students.) \*\*Note: Teachers will send out letters when novels need to be purchased. Please do NOT purchase in advance as not all novels may be used.
  - a. *A Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen ISBN 9780440228387 Random House, c. 2000.
  - b. *Farewell to Manzanar* by James D. Houston, ISBN 9780553272581, Laurel Leaf Books, c. 1983.
  - c. *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi, ISBN 9780380719075, Harper Trophy, c. 1993.
  - d. *Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah, ISBN 9780385740074, Random House, c.2010.
7. Play
  - a. *Flowers for Algernon* (The Play), by David Rogers based on Daniel Keyes' novel, ISBN 0871295377, Dramatic Publishing Company, c. 1969.
8. *The Magic Lens* by Michael Clay Thompson



## GRADE 8 HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

### Course Description:

Grade 8 Honors Language Arts will offer the opportunity for:

- Increased rigor and interesting opportunities for academic growth for students who have demonstrated high potential and enjoyment of reading and writing.
- Higher-level reading materials
- Increased pacing
- Vocabulary building
- Advanced writing skills
- Student discussion
- Strengthen speaking skills

Additionally, students may develop leadership skills through "Friday Forums," as they prepare questions and lead the open-ended dialogue on previously selected topics. Students will be required to complete two summer readings prior to the beginning of school and will be asked to complete about five hours per week of reading/writing outside of the classroom setting.

### Course Materials:

1. Summer Readings (These novels can be borrowed from the public library or purchased by students.)
  - a. *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton, ISBN 014038572x, Puffin Books, c. 1997
  - b. *Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip* by Jordan Sonnenblick, ISBN978-0545320702, Scholastic, c. 2012.
2. Holt Textbooks
  - a. Grade 9 Elements of Literature, Third Course, ISBN 9780030793493, Holt, c. 2007. Materials will be utilized to support various units such as mythology, poetry, novels, non-fiction, etc.
3. *Poetry, Plato, and the Problem of Truth* by Michael Clay Thompson, ISBN 9780880926645, Royal Fireworks Press, c. 2006. Using Plato's Dialogues and Socratic questioning as a source of ideas and a way of thinking about the concept of truth, students are led to begin to consider the difficult question that has absorbed philosophers, scientists, artists and poets: What is the nature of truth? (Class set for in class use)
4. Readings (These novels may be used and purchased by students, per teacher discretion.)
  - a. *Ana's Story* by Jenna Bush, ISBN 0061477923, Harper Collins, c. 2007.
  - b. *Cruise Control* by Terry Trueman. ISBN 9780064473774, HarperCollins, c. 2005.
  - c. *Night* by Elie Wiesel, ISBN 9780374500016, Hill and Wang, c. 1972, c. 2006 Translation.
  - d. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, ISBN 9780440237686, Random House, c. 2002.
  - e. *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream* by Sampson Davis, ISBN 0132393492, Prentice Hall, c. 2006.
  - f. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, ISBN 9780140177374, Penguin Books, c. 1993.
  - g. *Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman. ISBN 0064472132, HarperCollins, c. 2000.
  - h. \**Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank, ISBN 0553296981, Bantam Books, c. 1993. (Excerpts from a class set)\*
5. Drama (This may be used and purchased by students, per teacher discretion.)
  - a) *Romeo and Juliet* (unabridged) by Shakespeare, ISBN 9780743477116, Washington Square Press, c. 2004.

