

William H. Wetsel Middle School

2025-2026 English 7

Sarita Powers, Ami Coyle

Introduction and Overview

Welcome to seventh grade English class. We are looking forward to working with each student this year. This class will focus on the development of writing skills, language usage, word study, mechanics, and literary analysis.

Goals for the Year

- Read and understand a variety of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry.
- Identify the elements of fiction, including setting, plot, character, theme and conflict.
- Identify and explain analogies and figurative language.
- Analyze literature to understand the relationship between the text and its components, such as plot, author's choice of words, and figurative language.
- Use the study of literature to develop and enhance writing skills.
- Develop vocabulary skills.
- Complete a variety of writing assignments to introduce and refine expressive language.
- Use the writing process to develop a polished final product.
- Refine grammar and usage skills.
- Practice vocabulary skills.

Materials Needed for Class

- Binder
- Sharpened pencil
- Free-reading book
- Blank paper
- When instructed - colored pencils, highlighters, glue

Literature

Textbook: HMH Into Literature Virginia

Unit 1: Taking Action, Unit 2: Reality Check, Unit 3: Inspired by Nature, Unit 4: The Terror and Wonder of Space, Unit 5: More than a Game, Unit 6: Change Agents

Tentative Novel Selections

(Class novels will be chosen from this list.)

A Long Walk to Water, Ghost Girl, The Watsons Go To Birmingham 1963, My Side of the Mountain, Bridge to Terabithia, The Westing Game, A Christmas Carol

General Class Rules and Attendance Policy

- Students are expected to follow all school rules, as described in the handbook.
- Respect for oneself, classmates, teachers, and the classroom is expected.
- Students need to be in class and prepared to begin when the tardy bell rings.
- Students are expected to bring all required materials to class every day, including a binder, a pencil, and a book to read.
- Because of limited space, backpacks and winter coats are not allowed in the classroom.
- Students can bring water to class, but not food or other liquids.
- Cellphones must stay in the locker. Students should not visit their locker to use their cellphones.

Participate in practicing the character norms of being respectful, having integrity, being responsible, showing kindness, and having good American citizenship.

Tardy Policy

First Tardy to Class: Warning and teacher speaks to student

Second tardy to Class: Warning and teacher contacts parent

Third tardy: Teacher contacts parent and assigns one day of lunch detention

Subsequent tardies: Teacher contacts parent and writes a referral, student serves one hour of After-School Detention, parent conference with administration.

Grading

If a student was absent on the day an assignment was given or due, the student must still complete the assignment.

Your English teacher will give time during most class blocks to complete the day's assignments. If a student does not complete the assignment in class, that assignment becomes homework and must be completed and submitted within the week.

Grades are calculated as follows:

- Classwork/Homework = 20%
- Quizzes = 30%
- Tests = 50%

Grades will be updated in Power School within one week, with the exception of projects or lengthy writing assignments.

Benchmark Assessments for each quarter will be given on the following dates:

- October 14th
- December 15th
- March 10th

Late Work

- There are two deadlines per quarter for late assignment submission. Any assignment that is not turned in by the respective 4.5 or 9 week reporting periods will remain a 0% in the gradebook.
- For example, if an assignment was due week 2, it must be submitted by the 4.5 interim.

VDOE Standards:

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/english-reading-literacy/standards-of-learning/2024-english-standards-of-learning>

English Platform

Students will be using Google Classroom this year as their online classroom platform. We will be using several approved websites with Google Classroom, including HMHOnline, NoRedInk, Quizizz, CommonLit, and Newsela.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using another person or Artificial Intelligence's work and submitting it as your own work without proper acknowledgement or credit. If a student plagiarizes any assignment, that student must serve one day of in-school suspension, that student will receive a score of zero for the plagiarized assignment, and that student will not be able to redo the plagiarized assignment.

Communication

If a parent/guardian needs to communicate with a teacher, please call the office and leave a message (948-3783) or see email addresses below.

Sarita Powers - email: spowers@madisonschools.k12.va.us
Ami Coyle - email: acoyle@madisonschools.k12.va.us

William H. Wetsel Middle School 2025-2026 Eighth Grade English Syllabus

Please sign and return after reading through all expectations.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date
