



7th Grade Language Arts Mrs. Karsen Team 7-1

Hello and welcome to 7th grade Language Arts! I'm looking forward to an exciting year with your child!

We will focus on Language Arts concepts in a workshop environment. A workshop asks students to be active participants in their learning, making choices and taking responsibility for meeting their personal academic goals.

The key outcomes for 7th grade Language Arts are:

- use the reading process to construct meaning from text
- use written language as a tool to communicate in some or all of these areas: personal narrative, descriptive writing, expository writing, persuasive writing, short stories, and poetry.
- hear, listen, and understand oral messages
- effectively express verbal messages
- read to experience other times, places and events; to acquire new information; and to gain insights into themselves and others.

Supply List:

1. one 1.5 inch three-ring binder (to be used as your LA Binder, in lieu of a textbook)
2. at least 4 dividers
3. highlighter
4. pencils
5. sticky notes

Contracts:

Each grading term, students will receive a contract for their in-class binder. The contract details the assignments, writings, readings, or general requirements for that quarter. It will also have many due dates for long term assignments as well :)

What is accomplished from the contract will play a large part in determining each student's grade.

Contracts will have three major components:

- Independent Reading
- Writer's Workshop
- Daily work/class participation

I encourage you and your child to discuss their reading and writing often, particularly since it comprises a large part of the Language Arts grade. Every writer loves praise and encouragement! It also keeps all of us on the same page in terms of deadlines and requirements.

Breakdown of Grading:

~Reading (40% of grade)

Independent Reading – Students will select books from the library or other sources to read individually during selected class time and at home. For each quarter, they will set a goal and read to meet that goal. After each book is finished, they will complete an assignment in order to earn pages toward their goal. Students will rarely receive “traditional” homework from me as **reading at least two hours per week is their standing homework assignment.**

~Writing Workshop (40% of grade)

The Writing Process – students will write as writers, experiencing the entire writing process: pre-writing, drafting, revising, conferencing, editing, sharing. Throughout the year, students will be exposed to a variety of writing and will produce papers in some or all of these areas: personal narrative, descriptive writing, expository writing, persuasive writing, short stories, and poetry. A rubric detailing each piece's requirements will be provided.

Grammar and Usage – Grammar and usage will be taught through mini-lessons within the writing process. We will have weekly grammar lessons and practice through an interactive tool called “Quill” which will support both the reading and writing curriculum.

~Daily Work (20% of grade)

Class Participation – Students will participate in all class mini-lessons, class discussions, and practice writings. In the case of absence, students are expected to complete all missed lessons. It is their responsibility to determine what was missed.

Binder Requirement – We do not have a Language Arts textbook, therefore students will keep a binder in the classroom. This LA Binder will contain: writing ideas, Independent Reading Log, notes, contracts, and mini-lessons.

I have a very informative and helpful website where all class resources and most handouts will be posted on. There is also a calendar of due dates and assignments as well. Students and parents are encouraged to visit is often! Our classroom website is: **karsenclass.weebly.com**
A willingness to take risks and to try new techniques and genres will help young writers grow. A positive climate of support, created by all class participants, is essential in order for this to happen. My classroom is a safe place for your child to grow, creatively, academically, and technically, in both reading and writing.

I value communication with parents and guardians, so please don't hesitate to contact me, via email or phone, should a question or concern arise. It's going to be a fantastic school year! Thanks for letting me spend it with your children!

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