



## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** English Language Arts, Grade 7

**School Year:** 2024-2025

**Semester(s):** 1 and 2

**Grade Level(s):** 7th Grade

**Course Day(s) and Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm PST.

### Teacher Information

- **Name:** Ingrid Moon
- **Email:** [ingrid.moon@brancheslearning.org](mailto:ingrid.moon@brancheslearning.org)
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

**Class Materials** - <https://brancheslearning.org/product/language-arts-grade-7/#Materials>

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### Course Description

Our 7th-grade English Language Arts course combines standards and projects to give students a deep grasp of language, literature, and writing. They participate in hands-on activities to enhance critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration while honing reading, writing, and communication skills. Projects involve original written works paired with multimedia presentations.

### Course Units

#### Unit 1 - Community, Giving and Helping

How can I persuade my peers to be helpful, giving members of society?

- Books: *Schooled or Home, and Other Big, Fat Lies*
- Writing: Persuasive Writing

#### Unit 2 - Survival and Resilience

Given a disaster, how would I demonstrate an effective social solution?

- Books: *Nabukko or Dry*
- Writing: Argumentative writing

#### Unit 3 - Culture, Folklore, and Mythology

How does the culture, folklore, or mythology of my heritage inform my daily life?

- Books: *The Hobbit or The Girl and the Ghost*
- Writing: Informational Writing

## Unit 4 - A Book of Choice

How does reading affect my future career or life?

- Books: Learner chooses an approved book
- Writing: Learner chooses type of writing

### Course Goals

- Develop emotional intelligence and personal resilience
- Express thoughts and ideas in writing
- Cite evidence to support ideas in writing
- Develop the structural and mechanical skills of writing
- Identify literary elements such as author’s perspective, theme, and figurative language

### Assignments and Projects

Assignments and project descriptions will be provided for each unit on the web site and will be turned in on Google Classroom. Students are expected to read two books per semester. To ensure students keep up, weekly quizzes will be administered for the assigned chapters. Students will craft one project relating to the theme of the unit and its reading. Group activities (book club) require reading to be caught-up for participation in group discussions. In addition to the reading, students will write two essays, each related to the theme of the unit. Students will also be provided with weekly practice in English language mechanics: punctuation, syntax, word choice, etc.

Unit	Deliverables	Points
1	Read assigned book <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take weekly reading quizzes</li> <li>- Participate in book club activities</li> <li>- Craft a creative project</li> </ul>	10 5 15
2	Read assigned book <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take weekly reading quizzes</li> <li>- Participate in book club activities</li> <li>- Craft a creative project</li> </ul>	10 5 15
all	2 Writing Projects (10 points each)	20
all	Practice daily mechanics activities (2 points each)	20
	<b>Total (semester 1)</b>	<b>100</b>

Unit	Deliverables	Points
3	Read assigned book - Take weekly reading quizzes - Participate in book club activities - Craft a creative project	10 5 15
4	Read assigned book - Take weekly reading quizzes - Participate in book club activities - Craft a creative project	10 5 15
all	2 Writing Projects (10 points each)	20
all	Practice daily mechanics activities (2 points each)	20
<b>Total (semester 2)</b>		<b>100</b>

### Course Expectations

- Always come to class prepared with prior assignments completed.
- Expect to have coursework and project work outside of class time.
- Keep your camera on; active cameras count toward participation.
- Submit work on time, and you will never fall behind.
- Treat others with respect; that includes remaining focused on screen and in the chat, as well as during group work in breakout rooms.
- The more you participate in class, the more your peers will respect you.
- Never feel afraid to ask for help - the only dumb question is the one never asked.
- Communicate with me as soon as possible if there is any issue, question, or need for additional support.

### Grading Scale

#### Middle School, Grades 6-8

- A = 90% -100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

## **Important Branches Learning Policy Information**

### **Camera Policy**

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

### **Headset Policy**

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

### **Attendance Policy**

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to [info@brancheslearning.org](mailto:info@brancheslearning.org). Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

### **Late Work**

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.