

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS SYLLABUS

## 2017

January 2, 2017

Dear Parent,

Thank you for entrusting your student to Pojoaque Valley Middle School's care during this second half of the school year. I am delighted to instruct your child in English language arts.

Please look over this syllabus. It contains goals and standards for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts. Please review these goals and standards with your child and encourage him/her to succeed in this class. If you have any questions please either contact me at the email address below (preferred), mail them to the school, or write them down on paper and send with your student to the next possible class.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Scott Shuker

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Teacher:** Mr. Shuker

**Professional overview:** BAFA - UNM, Abq. NM; AFA and Cert. of Sec. Ed. - SFCC, Santa Fe, NM;  
NM License #349933, Level 1, Secondary Visual Arts and Language Arts

**Email Address:** [sts@pvs.k12.nm.us](mailto:sts@pvs.k12.nm.us)

**Hello students!** *Welcome* back to Pojoaque Valley Middle School! For the students who are new this school year, welcome! My name is Mr. Shuker and I am the new English teacher who is replacing Ms. Garcia. This syllabus will be a guide to help you understand the curriculum for seventh grade Language Arts and to prepare you for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year at PVMS.

#### **Course Objectives:**

The objectives are to strengthen reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will practice and improve reading skills by completing reading comprehension exercises, practicing and using a variety of reading strategies, and incorporating Common Core State Standards that will help students be better prepared for high school, college, and a career.

Students will be encouraged to use critical thinking skills to analyze what has been read. The textbook we are using this year will provide the students with many genres of literature and many opportunities to improve their critical thinking and reasoning skills. We are also going to be learning, practicing, and implementing various reading strategies that will prepare the 7th grade students for the next grade.

We will also spend a considerable amount of time on class discussions and group projects. Our focus is to have the students improve their creative thinking skills so that they will become skilled readers, writers, speakers, and listeners as well as score high marks on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade PARRC assessment.

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## Course Goals:

- ❖ To improve and develop skills in both reading and writing through insightful analysis of literature in its many forms.
- ❖ To gain personal and educational growth through the reading of quality literature.
- ❖ To improve skills in reading, grammar, usage, composition, vocabulary, spelling, listening and speaking.
- ❖ To work collaboratively with other class members to enhance appreciation and comprehension of quality literature.
- ❖ To analyze and improve individual writing and reading by keeping a binder of work.
- ❖ To prepare students for assessment of NM State and Common Core standards in the areas of both reading and writing.

## Resources

*Collections* cop. 2015 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt text and workbook

In-class books: *Flower for Algernon* by  
*Good-bye Vietnam* by

## Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *Collections* Common Core Edition textbook:

This textbook is a comprehensive resource that addresses all key points of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (ELA). The tables of contents boast a strong balance of classic and contemporary literature and diverse informational texts that progressively develop and apply students' ELA skills. Students practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening by analyzing and producing an array of media. Language skills are addressed within each selection, and after selections to emphasize the contextualized nature of vocabulary. All selections are complemented by visuals that enhance comprehension and add background knowledge.

**Nine-Week Plan/Units of Study:** The seventh grade Language Arts curriculum has been developed to cover a broad range of topics dealing with reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students will work more closely with the assigned textbook *Collections* and each three-week unit will be designed according to the content and pacing of the text and the curriculum determined by PVS.

## First Nine Weeks (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter):

Novel for whole group reading: *Flowers for Algernon* by

**Unit 1:** Bold Actions  
text pp. 3-59

**Unit 2:** Perception and Reality  
text pp. 63-133

**Unit 3:** Nature at Work  
text pp. 137-182

## Second Nine Weeks (4<sup>th</sup> quarter):

Novel for whole group reading: *Good-bye Viet Nam* by

**Unit 4:** Risk and Exploration  
text pp. 185-217

**Unit 5:** The Stuff of Consumer Culture  
text pp. 221-262

**Unit 6:** Guided by a Cause

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text 265-343

Syllabus agenda subject to change at teacher's discretion.

## Grades

## Grading Scale:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59 and below F

**Guidelines and Procedures:** (See *PVS Policies and Procedures* for other sections).

## STUDENT CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

- Be pleasant, honest, and cooperative.
- Be in their seats working when the bell rings.
- Participate in class and ask questions to clarify problems with assigned work.
- Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Take pride in their work and do their best at all times.
- Students are issued a textbook to use for the year. Textbooks cost up to \$85.00. Should the book not be returned at the end of the course, the student is responsible for the replacement cost of the book(s). This is true for all students.

**Positive consequences include:** Verbal Praise , Notes home , and Incentives

## Extra Help:

Students are invited to make an appointment to stay on a certain afternoon for extra help. We must receive a parent or guardian's permission before any student stays after school. Appropriate accommodations must also be made for transportation to and from extra help.

Please feel free to contact me any time you have questions or concerns. I will respond as quickly as possible. I will typically contact parents by e-mail. However, if it is a matter of greater concern, then I will contact parents by phone or set up a conference at school.