

7th Grade Language Arts

"Life is to be lived, not controlled; and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat."

- Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*

Communication

I look forward to keeping an open line of communication with both students and parents, and I am always willing to discuss any concerns that you may have, via email or with a conference. I can be reached by the email addresses listed at the bottom of the document, and will do my best to reply within 24 hours of your message during school hours.

I will not respond immediately if contacted in the evenings, on weekends, or during school holidays.



Class Expectations

In order to be successful in this course, students will need to arrive at class:

READY

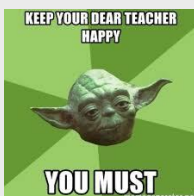
- Have all necessary supplies and homework with them
- Prepared to work the full class period

RESPONSIBLE

- Follow directions the first time they are given
- Speak up when you don't understand

RESPECTFUL

- Treat others as you would like to be treated
- Admit when you are wrong and strive to do better
- Keep our room clean and orderly



Course Description

Welcome to 7th Grade Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. The development and mastery of these important literary skills not only is important to achieving success in the Language Arts classroom, but also is a critical component of achieving success in other school subjects, building strong relationships with others, and attaining a flourishing career as an adult. Basically, the quality of life you experience now through adulthood will greatly depend on how well you learn to read, write, and communicate with others... so let's get to it!



What do I get if I follow class rules?

Your appropriate behavior in class assures everyone of an environment conducive to learning. Some possible rewards for continuous appropriate behavior are: intrinsic value (satisfaction of learning), improved skills, verbal praise, positive note to parents, tangible trinkets (candy!), and special class activities.

What happens if I don't follow class rules?

- 1) Verbal Intervention – Teacher will discuss why the behavior is inappropriate,
- 2) Logical Consequences – Consequences of continued misbehavior explained and possible meeting with teacher given during recess,
- 3) Conference – Teacher will send an email to conference with the parents, and
- 4) Referral – Student will be sent to the office and asked to complete a student reflection form.

Where do I go to find agendas and assignments?

Weebly houses our class website with important announcements and more. In addition, this year our ELA classroom will utilize **Haiku** to provide students with a look at our weekly agenda and corresponding homework assignments. Please bookmark the following sites and check them on a daily basis:

Website: <http://g7du.weebly.com/language-arts.html>

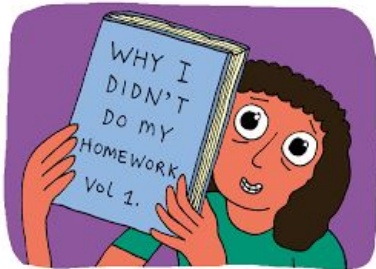
Website: <https://www.myhaikuclass.com/ramquistsdupeoria/duela7th>

How is technology used in the English classroom?

It is my goal to foster student learning with both traditional pen and paper and net-based medium. In the language arts classroom, students will regularly complete reading, writing, research, and quizzes/tests using school-provided Chromebooks. In order to use these laptops, students must have a Google based email account, so that they can login to the laptop to create and submit their work. Students may also use educational websites such as Quizlet and IXL for classwork and/or homework.

Grading Scale

A+	= 98% - 100%	A	= 93% - 97%
A-	= 90% - 92%	B+	= 88% - 89%
B	= 83% - 87%	B-	= 80% - 82%
C+	= 78% - 79%	C	= 73% - 77%
C-	= 70% - 72%	D+	= 68% - 69%
D	= 63% - 67%	D-	= 60% - 62%



Grade Breakdown

Tests and Projects	=	40%
<small>(essays, book reports/projects, book tests)</small>		
Quizzes	=	20%
<small>(vocabulary, others, as needed)</small>		
Homework	=	20%
<small>(at-home reading/notebook work, grammar/vocab)</small>		
Classwork	=	20%
<small>(includes reading, writing, and participation)</small>		

Plagiarism

When a student is found to be plagiarizing:

1st Offense: Student will be asked to re-submit the assignment

2nd Offense: Parents and Office will be notified and student will receive a zero on the assignment



How will I check my grade in class?

Class progress reports will be emailed to parents midway through the semester. However, parents and students are also encouraged to check Quickschools on a weekly basis to view the most current grades for every class, not just mine!

What do I do if I am absent?

Students are expected to be in class on a daily basis, per the attendance policy. In the event of an excused absence, students should check the class Haiku site for agendas, handouts, and any assignments due. Students will have as many days as they were absent to make up assignments, tests, and/or quizzes missed. If students do not make up the work after the allotted number of days has passed, a zero will be recorded in the gradebook.

If students would like to make up any classwork and/or homework from an extended, excused absence (not due to illness), they must come and speak to the teacher. Quizzes and tests will always have a make-up if the absence was excused.

What if I don't do my homework?

There will be a 10% deduction taken for the first day that an assignment is late. After the second day, a 50% deduction will be taken, and after the **third** late day, the assignment will receive a zero.

Can I earn extra credit or re-do an assignment?

Extra credit may be assigned, but may not be expected. Students should always put forth maximum effort when completing assignments to eliminate the need for extra credit. Redos may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the teacher, and only on tests and/or final projects. In all other cases, grades will not be modified unless to correct a mathematical error.

Do I have to read outside of class?

All students will be expected to read independently on a daily basis and keep a reading log. Students must bring a reading book to class every day, as it may be used in both reading and/or writing (writing about reading!).

Students can expect book projects on the books they are independently reading, literature circles, book clubs, and, of course, book contests!

What types of writing will I do this year?

6-Traits of Writing It's not a program, but a framework that uses the six qualities of "good" writing to guide every lesson, assignment, and assessment. We will use an Evan-Moor workbook to continuously practice each of the 6-traits (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions).

Process Pieces refer to essays that students will complete on their Google Drive account. Numerous essays will be completed throughout the year (at least one per quarter). Even though they will be worked on and stored in the student's Google Drive, completed essays must be printed off on the due date of the assignment. Process pieces will come from the main writing genres: narrative, informative, and argumentative writing.

How does Mrs. Ramquist choose books for her library?

Mrs. Ramquist asks students for help when purchasing books for her library. Often students will ask for a specific book or will indicate a genre that they love. Mrs. Ramquist does her very best to choose appropriate books by reading reviews and book summaries; however, she cannot assure that all books will follow Islamic standards. Mrs. Ramquist does her best, but she kindly asks for parental help in monitoring the books that students are reading.

Please Read the course information, Sign, and Return this sheet to Mrs. Ramquist by Friday!

Students:

Please sign below to signify that you have read the course sheet for Mrs. Ramquist's class, will be responsible for the information throughout the year, and **will check Quickschools at least once per week at school or at home.**

Student printed name

Student signature

Parents/Guardians:

Check all the statements that apply to how you would like to communicate with Mrs. Ramquist about your student's progress. I will, of course, call for major concerns or accomplishments, but as I teach three grades (6th, 7th, and 8th), I like to know how you'd prefer to communicate.

_____ We have internet access at home, so we will regularly check Quickschools to check on our student's progress. We will contact Mrs. Ramquist about any concerns we have.

_____ We plan to email Mrs. Ramquist weekly or monthly for an update on our student's progress.

_____ We do not have internet access at home, but we would like to have regular contact with Mrs. Ramquist. We will call for an update on a regular basis.

_____ Other: _____

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course sheet for Mrs. Ramquist's class and that you will help your student be accountable for the information. If you have questions about the course or your student's work, please do not hesitate to contact me; **email is the best way to reach me quickly**. See the bottom of this sheet for my email address.

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Parents and guardians, please CIRCLE the best way for me to contact you:

e-mail

phone