

**COURSE PROFICIENCY OUTLINE  
LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE SEVEN  
TRACK I**

**PURPOSE**

The language arts program in grade seven continues to build on the basic skills in reading, grammar, and writing that the students have acquired in the elementary grades. The major phases of work that a student covers are grammar, oral and written communication, reading comprehension skills, vocabulary development, study skills, and the study of literature.

**I. STUDENT OUTCOMES State Standards 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5  
Workplace Readiness Standards 1,2,3,4**

- A. Students will further develop their skills in writing, speaking, reading, listening, and viewing.
- B. Students will develop the skills necessary to interpret, analyze, and critically evaluate text.
- C. Students will demonstrate an ability to manage information and construct meaning through analysis, inference, interpretation, summaries, generalizations and appraisals utilizing a wide selection of materials.

**II. CONTENT State Standards 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5  
Workplace Readiness Standards 1,2,3,4**

A. Grammar and Mechanics

- 1. Nouns: possessives
- 2. Verbs: tenses, irregular forms
- 3. Pronouns: indefinite forms
- 4. Adjectives: comparison of modifiers, correct use of modifiers
- 5. Sentence Classification
- 6. Subject/Verb Agreement
- 7. Noun-pronoun/Antecedent Agreement
- 8. Complements
- 9. Simple/Compound/Complex Sentences
- 10. Punctuation: emphasis on dialogue writing skills and apostrophe use
- 11. Phrases: simple identification
- 12. Clauses: simple identification

B. Composition

- 1. Development of revision/editing skills
- 2. Development of the multi-paragraph essay on topics that will ask the student to convince the reader of his/her position on an issue, propose solutions to problems, and relate causes and effects.
- 3. Development of a well-supported reaction to a story, book, article, or other text.
- 4. Single and/or multi-paragraph responses to a story, book, article, or other text.
- 5. Written response/reaction to a picture.
- 6. Optional research reports not to exceed five pages.

### C. Reading

1. Reinforcement and refinement of basic reading skills and development of the ability to locate information using a variety of reference material. These basic reading skills include both literal and inferential comprehension of the following:

main idea	inference
supporting details	drawing conclusions
comparison/contrast*	predicting outcomes
cause/effect*	author's purpose*
sequence	fact/opinion*
classifying/organizing	

2. Understanding and application of the following literary terms:

figurative language	foreshadowing
plot	mood
setting	symbol
characterization	irony
protagonist/antagonist	point of view
conflict	theme
flashback	

3. Exposure to various literary types: novel, short story, drama, poetry, biography, and essay
4. Experience with various text types: narrative, informational, persuasive, everyday
5. Development of interpretative, analytical and appreciative skills

### D. Vocabulary

1. Meaning from context and precise meaning of words through definition, spelling, pronunciation, and usage in a sentence
2. Words based on reading selections and teacher-prepared units
3. Effective use of dictionary and thesaurus

### E. Study Skills

1. Listening
2. Following directions
3. Taking notes
4. Scanning, skimming, surveying various texts
5. Developing test-taking strategies
6. Enhancing Library/Reference skills by print and electronic media

## III. ACTIVITIES/ MATERIALS

A. Texts

1. *Prentice Hall Literature/ New Jersey Penguin Edition Grade 7*  
Pearson/ Prentice Hall 2007
2. Trade books: Theme related trade books appropriate for grade appropriate reading as individuals or within a flexible group setting/ literature circles.
3. *Vocabulary Workshop* (Level B), Sadlier-Oxford Co.
4. *Elements of Writing*, First Course (7). Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

B. Class work

1. Lectures, discussions, audio-visual materials, class texts, and supplementary reading materials will be utilized.
2. Skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and critical thinking will be stressed.
3. Assignments, quizzes, and tests will be graded and reviewed by teacher and pupils.

**IV. EVALUATION**

- A. Students will be expected to complete homework and class work learning assignments on time.
- B. Students will be expected to participate in class.
- C. Students will be expected to study for and to complete tests and quizzes successfully.
- D. Students will be expected to take a comprehensive language arts final examination.
- E. Students will be expected to bring text, pencil or pen, notebooks, and other necessary materials to class.
- F. The final grade represents the teacher's professional judgment of the student's performance. All of the aforementioned activities and/or requirements are included in the evaluation process.

\*These areas correspond directly to NJ State Standards.

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