

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Title	Teachers
English Language Arts Grade 7	Ms. Abby Franks

Course Description
<p>English Language Arts in Grade 7 begins by developing a love of reading in students. Classes have access to a vast variety of books appropriate to their lexical level and above, both in ICS library and from their classroom library. Students will also be exposed to classical texts and poetry in class activities. Writing is also a main focus in Grade 7, and students by the end of the year should have mastered a variety of different modes of writing, including creative journal writing, essay writing and news article writing. Alongside the reading and writing workshop model, students will also be expected to present, participate in, and where possible lead activities. This ensures that are students are confident in their speaking and listening skills, in addition to their reading and writing skills.</p>

Topics /Activities - Semester 1: August-December
<p>During this semester, students will read a number of fiction books that interest them. They are expected to read every day. Students will also become familiar with the 6+1 Traits of writing, through presentations and use them in their own writing. As we move on through the semester, students will learn about using textual evidence to support their ideas and practice using proper conventions to enhance the quality of their writing. They will be grouped by interest and ability into Literature Circles and read a Gothic Fiction novel together with their group and as a class; including some classic texts such as Edgar Allen Poe, Mary Shelly and Bram Stoker. This semester the focus is on creating a culture of reading and writing, as well as what makes good readers and writers. They will be practicing those characteristics to improve their own reading and writing practices.</p>

Topics /Activities - Semester 2 : January-June
<p>During the second semester, students will explore different kinds of non-fiction text. Students will identify audience and purpose of writing, as well as develop their own persuasive and discursive skills. Students will study the teenage brain and how “screen-time” affects its growth. We will end on a class novel, Roald Dahl’s <i>Going Solo</i>, on which students will be expected to write an essay on one theme in the novel. Throughout both semesters, mini-lessons on grammar and vocabulary will be regularly instructed.</p>

Basis of Student Assessment and Grades
<p>Students will be assessed separately on their achievement and effort using the standards and benchmarks established by the school for this course. (See ICS Assessment Policy, August 2015). Assessments used to measure academic achievement include: literary analysis pieces, expository / informational, persuasive and narrative writing, Socratic seminars, presentations, debates, in class observations, independent inquiry projects, quizzes, tests, and performance pieces.</p>

Effort and Attitude Expectations

Commitment to Learning	Collaboration and Respect	Self-Management
Student: -Tries to improve their work by seeking out extra help or asking and answering challenging questions (<i>INQUIRER</i>) -Shows work that demonstrates their best effort (<i>THINKER</i>) -Is fully engaged in the lesson (<i>KNOWLEDGABLE</i>) -Uses feedback effectively to produce best work (<i>REFLECTIVE</i>)	Student: -Encourages others to contribute and works to keep the group on task (<i>CARING</i>) -Facilitates learning by sharing ideas and listening attentively (<i>OPEN-MINDED</i>) -Participates in class discussions respectfully without monopolizing the class (<i>COMMUNICATOR</i>)	Student: -Comes prepared with required materials ready before the bell rings to start the class (<i>PRINCIPLED</i>) -Shows work that has been completed with care is submitted on time (<i>BALANCED</i>) -Follows instructions the first time they are announced (<i>COURAGEOUS</i>)

Required Materials

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -personal reading book -binder with dividers or folders to differentiate between classes -notebook (for English only) and/or loose leaf paper -writing utensil (pen or pencil) -fully charged laptop -water bottle

Texts

A variety of extracts, articles, and short stories <i>This Dark Endeavor</i> by Kenneth Oppel <i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley <i>Dracula</i> (Graphic Novel) by Bram Stoker <i>Ashes on the Water</i> by Mary Lindsey <i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i> by Ransom Riggs Edgar Allen Poe's Short stories and poetry <i>Going Solo</i> by Roald Dahl
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Teacher Contact Details	Moodle Link
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abby.franks@icsaddis.edu.et	http://elearning.icsaddis.edu.et/course/view.php?id=808
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