

**Course Name: Language Arts Grade 7**  
**Course #: M1722**

**Course Description:** Aligned to the Common Core Standards, the seventh grade language arts course is designed to develop critical readers and writers through reinforcing and refining essential literacy skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. Students are exposed to a variety of genres: drama, poetry, and contemporary and traditional texts in fiction and nonfiction. Classroom instruction emphasizes literature discussion, meaningful written response to literature, vocabulary development, and application of reading strategies. As part of this course, students also participate in independent reading in order to foster a love of reading and encourage life-long learning.

**Course Proficiencies:** The following is a list of proficiencies that describe what students are expected to know and be able to do as a result of successfully completing this course. The proficiencies are the basis of the assessment of student achievement. The learner will demonstrate the ability to:

- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (NJSL.S.RL&I..7.1.)
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. (NJSL.S.RL&I..7.2.)
- Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot). (NJSL.S.RL7..3.)
- Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events). (NJSL.S.RI.7.3.)
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone. (NJSL.S.RL&I..7.4.)
- Analyze the form and structure an author uses to organize a text (i.e. how the genre of drama or poetry contributes to its meaning or how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.) (NJSL.S.RL&I..7.5.)
- Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text. (NJSL.S.RL7..6.)
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others. (NJSL.S.RI.7.6.)
- Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film). (NJSL.S.RL7..7.)
- Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words). (NJSL.S.RI.7.7.)

- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims. (NJSL.S.RI.7.8.)
- Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history. (NJSL.S.RL7..9.)
- Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts. (NJSL.S.RI.7.9.)
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. (NJSL.S.RL7..10.)
- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. (NJSL.S.W.7.1.)
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. (NJSL.S.W.7.2.)
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. (NJSL.S.SL.7.1.)
- Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study. (NJSL.S.SL.7.2.)
- Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence. (NJSL.S.SL.7.3.)
- Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation. (NJSL.S.SL.7.4.)
- Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points. (NJSL.S.SL.7.5.)
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (NJSL.S.SL.7.6.)
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. (NJSL.S.L.7.1.)
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. (NJSL.S.L.7.2.)
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. (NJSL.S.L.7.3.)
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. (NJSL.S.L.7.4.)
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. (NJSL.S.L.7.5.)
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. (NJSL.S.L.7.6.)

- Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment. (NJSL.S. 9.2.12.C.1)
- Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans. (NJSL.S.9.2.12.C.3)
- Use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge. (NJSL.S.T.8.1)
- Develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology, engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment. (NJSL.S.T.8.2)

### **Assessments:**

1. Tests/Quizzes
2. Individual and group projects
3. Open-ended responses and other writing forms
4. Multimedia presentations
5. Classroom discussion
6. Portfolios

### **Board Adopted Materials:**

Title: Write Source 2000  
 Author: Sebranek, P., Meyer, V., Kemper, D.  
 Publisher: Great Source Education Group (Houghton Mifflin Company)  
 Copyright: 1996

Title: **Vocabulary Workshop NJSL.S.Level B)**  
 Author: Shostak, Jerome  
 Publisher: Sadlier-Oxford  
 Copyright: 1996