

Seventh-Grade English, Part 1

Syllabus



Course Description

The theme of this Seventh-Grade English, Part 1 course is **Creating Community: Searching for Belonging**. The course is divided into sixteen modules. As you progress through these modules, you will read a variety of texts that address different aspects of the theme and help you consider our four essential questions:

- What does it mean to belong?
- How do you find where you belong?
- What are the benefits and costs of belonging or standing out?
- Can belonging limit or impede us?

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Materials and Technology

Required Text: Students must buy this novel as the anchor text for the course:

Hinton, S.E. (1967). *The Outsiders*. Viking Press.

Then, each student chooses ONE of the following novels to read during the course:

1. Spinelli, Jerry. (2004). *Stargirl*. Miami, FL, Alfaguara.
2. Bloor, Edward. (2006). *Tangerine*. Boston, MA: Harcourt Children's Books.
3. Sloan, Holly Goldberg. (2014). *Counting by 7s*. New York, Scholastic.

Course Outcomes

As students complete the course assignments, they will increase their knowledge, improve a 21st-century skill, and develop an attribute.



Knowledge: Seventh-Grade English, Part 1

In this course, *knowledge* refers to the subject matter and content students will learn while completing the readings, interactive practices, quizzes, and assignments.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Analyze elements of narrative story structure.
2. Discover three points of view of an author's craft.
3. Identify figurative language in reading a variety of texts.
4. Differentiate between topics and themes.
5. Use textual evidence to support theme in writing an essay.
6. Increase vocabulary and grammar skills to improve writing.



21st-Century Skill: Communication- Communicate Using Writing

As students complete this course's assignments, they will gain skills in *Communication*. This skill is part of Communicate Using Writing. Students will have opportunities to communicate what they are learning about the novels' themes, characterization, setting, and more through writing and responding.



Attribute: Courage

This course focuses on attribute of *courage* in the context of Seventh-Grade English. There are various examples drawn from literature and other texts to think about to help students think of ways to increase their courage.



Grading and Assignments

The letter grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams.

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Study Guides	Computer-Graded	20%

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Assignments	Teacher-Graded (35% and Computer-Grader (5%)	Total of 40%
Module Quizzes	Computer-Graded	10%
Midcourse Quiz	Computer-Graded	10%
Final Exam	Computer-Graded	20%

Assignments and Exams

Assignments and Study Guides

There are Study Guides in **every module** that review important content in each lesson. These Study Guides will be submitted in every module. There are other assignments that are listed in the Submit section of the Overview pages of each module.

These assignments will be submitted in the following modules, some of which are computer graded:

- Module 1: Graphic Organizer for "Where I'm From"
- Module 2: Plot Diagram for "All Summer in a Day"
- Module 3: How to Increase Your Sense of Belonging
- Module 4, Lesson 2 Quiz: Practicing Point of View
- Module 5, Lesson 2: *The Outsiders* Topics Likert Scale
- Module 6, Lesson 2: Symbolism in *The Outsiders*
- Module 7: Reading Check Chapters 6-7
- Module 7, Lesson 3: Writing with Conjunctions
- Module 8, Lesson 2: Writing with Metaphors
- Module 9, Lesson 2: Theme in *The Outsiders* **and** Supporting your Theme with Evidence
- Module 10: Topic for Final Essay on Theme
- Module 11: Lesson 2; Initial Plot Diagram
- Module 11: Choice Novel- Author's Purpose Annotations
- Module 12: Choice Novel Characters in Word Cloud
- Module 13: Imagery Practice Score
- Module 14: Comparing Texts: Venn Diagram
- Module 15, Lesson 3: Dependent and Independent Clauses
- Module 16: Final Writing Project Due

Module Quizzes

There are open note quizzes at the end of every module, which reinforce important standards covered in the lessons and on the Study Guides.

Midcourse Quiz

This computer-graded quiz will cover the material up to the midcourse quiz. The questions on the midcourse quiz will be similar in format to the questions on the final exam. The midcourse quiz is in Module 8.

Final Exam

The final exam covers all material in the course.

Course Grade

The letter grade will be calculated according to these percentages.

Percent to Letter Grade Calculation	
A	100%–93%
A–	<93%–90%
B+	<90%–87%
B	<87%–83%
B–	<83%–80%
C+	<80%–77%
C	<77%–73%
C–	<73%–70%
D+	<70%–67%
D	<67%–63%
D–	<63%–60%
F (fail)	<60%–0%