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# PETERS TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 7

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### **Course Overview and Essential Skills:**

ELA 7 is an integrated program stressing reading, writing, and presentation skills:

**READING:** Students will read myths, plays, poetry, and a novel. As each reading genre is studied, emphasis is placed on vocabulary, comprehension, and the specific structure of the genre. In addition, students participate in an independent reading program, *Accelerated Reader*, which stresses choice of genre and the student's responsibility for completing several books and taking computerized tests for each.

**WRITING:** After a study of the six-step writing process and various grammar concepts, students complete writing projects throughout the remainder of the course. In most major units studied, a writing project and a continued study of grammar are completed. Additionally, students will be introduced to the three-prong thesis statement and proper structure for the five-paragraph essay.

**PRESENTATIONS:** An oral presentation component is included in most of the major units. Presentations range from formal, independent speeches to graded, group discussions.

### ***ESSENTIAL SKILLS:***

- Writing five paragraph essay with thesis statement
- Writing in various forms, such as poetry, script, and short-answer
- Using parts of speech and comma rules appropriately
- Peer- and self-proofreading/editing/revising of writing
- Recognizing story structure and dramatic structure; using them correctly
- Researching
- Recognizing and using literary and poetic devices
- Using appropriate presentation skills
- Note-taking/study skills

### **Course Textbook, Supplemental Resources, and Required Materials:**

- Texts: Various Teacher-Generated Packets;  
*Myths and Legends From Ancient Greece and Around the World* (ISBN 0-13-436033-8);  
*Greek Myths and Legends* (ISBN 0-02-254540-9);  
*Trouble* (ISBN 978-0547331331);  
*Payback Time* (ISBN 978-0547577333);  
*Stargirl* (ISBN 978-0439444439)
- Movies: *Taming of the Shrew: The Animated Tales*  
*Taming of the Shrew* (1967 Zeffirelli)
- Materials needed for class: 2" Binder with loose-leaf paper (dividers recommended),  
assignment book,  
writing utensils (including a red pen),  
highlighter

**Course Outline of Material Covered:**

<b>Unit or Topic</b>	<b>Course Activities/Resources</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Grammar	Review of the eight parts of speech and comma usage/rules; homework worksheets; periodic quizzes; unit test	Approx. 3 weeks; POS and editing mini-quizzes throughout school year
Novel	In-class and independent reading; note-taking; group discussion; mini-quizzes; unit test	Approx. 5 weeks
Accelerated Reader	Choose books according to AR guidelines; computerized quizzes (taken in PTMS library)	7 deadlines throughout the school year
Vocabulary	In-class study/review; homework worksheets/review sheets	Pre-test; five unit quizzes; post-test
The Writing Process	In-class writing; intro/review of thesis statement; mini-quizzes on writing components; unit quiz; story writing; essay writing	Approx. 4 weeks; various writing pieces throughout the year
Mythology	Review of story structure (Freytag's Pyramid); note-taking strategies; in-class and independent reading of myths; analysis of myths; comprehension mini-quizzes; unit test; essay writing	Approx. 5 weeks
Poetry	Examination of poems in order to identify, analyze, and differentiate among poetic devices; poetry writing; presentations; unit tests	Approx. 5 weeks
Research Project	Review of research process; research in PTMS library; homework; online works cited; Slides project; presentation; essay writing	Approx. 5 weeks
Drama/Intro to Shakespeare	Reading/performing scripts; review of Freytag's Pyramid; script writing; study of theater; intro to Shakespeare; mini-quizzes; unit test	Approx. 5 weeks

*\*Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.*