

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

*Legacy Academy*

## 2024-2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Mrs. Duran - Biol

### **Course Description**

Welcome to 7th Grade Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be to develop our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. We will be analyzing and responding to themes, form, and techniques in literature. We will be reading exceptional texts that may challenge and/or confirm how and what we think in our everyday lives. My goal as your teacher is to encourage and empower each of you to become exceptional learners both in and out of the classroom.

### **Textbooks:**

*California Collections 7<sup>th</sup> Grade*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017

*Collections: Close Reader*

*Collections: Performance Assessment*

### **Supplies:**

- ❖ Pens & pencils
- ❖ Highlighters (3+ colors preferred)
- ❖ College-ruled paper
- ❖ ELA Binder or Folder
- ❖ Headphones (with a cord to connect to Chromebook)

### **California Collections Units**

- ❖ "Bold Actions"
- ❖ "Perception and Reality"
- ❖ "Nature at Work"
- ❖ "Risk and Exploration"
- ❖ "The Stuff of Consumer Culture"
- ❖ "Guided by a Cause"

### **Novel Units**

- ❖ *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- ❖ *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

### **Tardy/Discipline Policy**

Students are required to come to class prepared and on time every day. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats ready to learn when the bell rings. Students that are not prepared or misbehave during instructional time will receive the following:

- ❖ Verbal Warning
- ❖ Incident Log & Detention

### **Independent Reading**

Students are required to bring a reading book to class daily, and complete weekly check-ins. Students will read 30+ minutes per night at home, per school policy.

### **Make-up Work**

Late assignments will be accepted but may not be turned in after the end of the unit of study in which they were assigned. Students may retake any test or quiz in which they received below 80% within a week. They may earn up to **80%** on their retake. If a student is absent, they can find the agenda and assignments in Google Classroom.

### **Grading**

Summative Assessments (60%) - Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Essays

Formative Assessments (40%) - Classwork, Homework, Participation

<b>A - Advanced</b> <b>90-100%</b> <b>B - Proficient</b> <b>80-89%</b> <b>C - Basic</b> <b>70-79%</b> <b>D - Below Basic</b> <b>60-69%</b> <b>F - Far Below Basic</b> <b>0-59%</b>	<b>Work Habits/Citizenship:</b> ★ O (Outstanding) ★ S (Satisfactory) ★ N (Needs Improvement) ★ U (Unsatisfactory)
<i>Students will receive a 0% on any assignment if they are caught cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment, test, or paper. This includes using A.I. to complete an assignment.</i>	

### **Classroom Expectations**

- ★ Students will check the Google Classroom daily.
- ★ Students will not share their login information or passwords with others.
- ★ Students will complete all assignments and turn them in on time.

- ★ Students will follow the school-wide expectations: responsible, respectful, and safe.
- ★ Students will follow academic honesty and not engage in plagiarism or cheating.
- ★ Students will take notes to help them with assignments and assessments.

### **Technology Expectations**

- ★ Students will have access to Google Classroom.
- ★ All electronic devices such as cell phones and apple watches must be turned off and kept in backpacks. Otherwise, the device will be taken to the office, per school policy.
- ★ Students will bring Chromebooks fully charged to class daily.
- ★ Chromebooks will only be used for academic purposes.

### **Class Assignments/Assessments**

- ★ Students will either submit their work on the curriculum websites (ex: My HRW), on Google Classroom, or in class per teacher's instructions.
- ★ Assignments must be submitted on the due date.
- ★ Assessments will take place throughout each unit of study. Students will be notified of any scheduled assessments a week prior.

### **Contact Information**

Email address: **emily\_duran@chino.k12.ca.us**

**Website:**

The easiest way to contact me is through email. I am committed to responding to emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

## **The Outsiders Novel Reading Permission**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During the 2024-2025 school year, your student will read the novel *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. It is published by Scholastic Books and recommended for ages 12 and up. We will be reading the novel in class, but students are welcomed to purchase their own copy at a local bookstore if they would prefer so they can write in their own annotations.

The language and details of the novel derive back to the 1960's. The novel is about a 14-year old boy named Ponyboy and his struggles with right and wrong in a society where he believes that he is an outsider. *The Outsiders* is about two groups of teenagers who rival each other because they come from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

*The Outsiders* unit will consist of class discussions, activities, and assignments that encourage critical and creative thinking. Your child will be encouraged to reflect upon the reading and discuss the author's use of characterization for the characters and their actions based on the stereotypes assigned to them by themselves and others. In addition, analyze how stereotypes affect society still today.

Due to some topics discussed in the book such as gang related violence and family dysfunction, some may consider it to be too mature for 7<sup>th</sup> graders unless a parent or legal guardian grants permission. I have personally read the novel and feel it is appropriate for our class. This novel has been selected by the district because of its literary and thematic worth. The mature content works to enhance the meaning of the text and will consequently promote a higher level of learning and understanding. However, I still wish to have your consent.

Students whose parents do not indicate permission or those students who do not return the parent permission form will read an alternative novel. If you would like to preview the book before it is used in the classroom, check out: <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/the-outsiders>

If you have any questions please contact me at [emily\\_duran@chino.k12.ca.us](mailto:emily_duran@chino.k12.ca.us)

Thank you!  
Mrs. Duran

CHINO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

## Supplementary Instructional Materials Parental Notification Form

Date: August 10, 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of: \_\_\_\_\_

I intend to use the following supplementary audio, video, or printed material(s) in class:  
(Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6161.11 require parental permission to view any  
audio or video recording that is not G-rated and to participate in supplemental reading)

Audio/visual media: Title: The Outsiders

Type of media: DVD

The rating for this recording/video is ☒ PG ☐ PG13 ☐ R ☐ Not rated

Supplementary reading: Title: The Outsiders

Author: S.E. Hinton

This material might be controversial because the movie is about teen rivalry between the poor North side gang called "The Greasers" and the wealthy South side gang known as "The Socials" depicted in the early 1960s in the Midwest. The violence intensifies between both gangs and tragically claims young lives. Ponyboy, the main character, desires to prove himself to be accepted by his older brothers' gang. At the same time, he finds his first love and dreams of a life beyond his dead-end existence. The boys grow up and eventually see their rivals may not be so different than what they originally thought.

However, this title supports the following standards for this course because it provides...

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**RL 7.7** 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.

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**W 7.9** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Attached is a Permission to Participate Form. If you wish to permit your son/daughter to participate in this assignment, you must complete the participation form and return to the teacher within five (5) school days for G-rated, fifteen (15) days for non G-rated. If we do not receive permission to participate, your child will be given an alternative assignment which relates to the topic discussed.

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Teacher's Signature

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Date

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Principal's Signature

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Date

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Parental Notification Form B to the teacher.

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**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN ONLY THIS PAGE TO MRS. DURAN**

My child and I have both read **the syllabus** and we fully understand and will adhere to the expectations and responsibilities of Mrs. Duran's class.

If I have any questions, I can email Mrs. Duran.

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**(See syllabus page 4)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child has my permission to read *The Outsiders* in Mrs. Duran's Language Arts class.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, my child DOES NOT have my permission to read *The Outsiders* in Mrs. Duran's Language Arts class.

Please provide an alternative novel.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**(See syllabus page 5)**

**I have read and understand the Supplementary Instructional Materials Parental Notification Form.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child has permission to watch *The Outsiders* in Mrs. Duran's class.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, my child DOES NOT have permission to watch *The Outsiders* in Mrs. Duran's class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_