Grade 7 Course Overview

Content Area: **English/Language Arts**
Course(s): **Language Arts 7**
Time Period:
Length: **Full Year**
Status: **Published**

Cover

EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
East Brunswick New Jersey

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Victor P. Valeski

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS
Grade 7
Course No. 3011

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Course Adoption: 04/21/1986
Curriculum Adoption: 09/09/1993
Date of Last Revision Adoption: 09/01/2021

Course Overview

The Grade 7 Balanced Literacy Curriculum is primarily imparted using the Workshop Model.

Grade 7 Balanced Literacy Curriculum

The Grade 7 Balanced Literacy Program is primarily implemented through the Reading and Writing Workshop Model. Typically, each "workshop" begins with a mini-lesson during which the teacher models a particular reading or writing strategy. Students have an opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and try the strategy, often by turning and talking with a partner as the teacher listens in. Following the mini-lesson students read or write independently for an extended period during which time the teacher observes, confers, and/or works with small groups of students with similar needs. At the culmination of the workshop session, selected students share their strategies and work with the class.

Direct Instruction in phonics, vocabulary, and word study is an important part of any Balanced Literacy Program. What is explicitly taught is carried into both the Reading and Writing Workshops.

Components of A Balanced Literacy Program

<u>**Word Study**</u>

Word study is an effective alternative to traditional spelling instruction that provides explicit instruction in phonics, spelling, word recognition, and vocabulary. Word study is differentiated for each student using his or her invented spellings as a guide. The scope and sequence of word study instruction is based on extensive research that tells us students' progress through sequential developmental stages of word knowledge as they become fully literate. Word study involves examining sound, pattern, and meaning of words. Students compare and contrast features in words in word sorting activities.

<u>**Reading Workshop**</u>

Mini Lesson (8-10 minutes): A mini-lesson focuses on a specific concept. A typical mini-lesson includes a direct statement and modeling of the concept by the teacher, followed by a class discussion and execution of the concept taught.

- Connection - Teacher states the teaching point simply, clearly, and explicitly. He/she cues students so they get ready for the teaching point by using language such as, "Today, I am going to teach you..." or "Today you will learn…"
- Teach - Teacher models/explains/gives examples of the skill, strategy, or behavior she/he wants students to learn.
- Active Involvement - Students "have a go;" this is the time for students to practice the work the teacher just taught them.
- Link -Teacher ends the mini-lesson by linking the lesson to the work students will do during independent reading; linking is where the teacher reiterates his/her teaching point and directs the students to the work they will be doing during independent reading.

Independent Reading (30 minutes): During this time the teacher confers with individual students, takes conference notes on each child and meets with a guided and/or strategy group(s).

- Guided Reading - Teacher may meet with one to two guided reading groups each day. Guided reading groups consist of no more than six students on the same instructional reading level. Guided reading groups are flexible, constantly changing as the students' reading levels change.
- Strategy Group - Strategy groups are established based on who needs instruction on specific skills rather than level. Strategy groups are flexible and always changing based on students' needs. They should have no more than six students.
- Mid-Workshop Interruption - An intentional announcement used to communicate a brief pointer, reminder, or compliment halfway through independent practice. While students are working on an

independent task, the teacher makes a brief interruption using a signal that gains everyone's attention (e.g. a bell, a patterned clap). Once everyone is attending, the teacher uses the moment to reinforce a teaching point, share an observation, address a misconception, or highlight an exemplar. Afterward, the teacher uses another signal to return students' attention back to their independent tasks. Giving a planned Mid-Workshop Interruption increases students' ability to maintain focus on a challenging task by allowing the brain to refresh and refocus; it is an opportunity to provide a framework for how students can continue working diligently for the remainder of the workshop.

Partner Reading: Students will talk with their partner about the books they are reading. Teachers facilitate the pairing of students in several different ways (same reading levels, below benchmark student with meeting or exceeding grade level student, meeting with exceeding, below grade level with approaching, etc.); what works in one classroom does not always work in another. Partnerships participate in discussions to strengthen their use of reading strategies and their understanding of the text.

Share (3-5 minutes): Students and teacher return to meeting area to reinforce expectations and good reading habits. Teacher will choose several student/partnership exemplars to share what they did during independent practice and/or partner work.

Writing Workshop

Mini Lesson (8-10 minutes): A mini-lesson focuses on a specific concept. A typical mini-lesson includes a direct statement and model of the concept by the teacher, followed by a class discussion and execution of the concept taught.

- Connection - Teacher states the teaching point simply, clearly, and explicitly. He/she cues students so they get ready for the teaching point by using language such as, "Today, I am going to teach you..." or "Today you will learn…"
- Teach - Teacher models/explains/gives examples of the skill, strategy, or behavior she/he wants students to learn.
- Active Involvement - Students "have a go;" this is the time for students to try out the work the teacher just taught them.
- Link -Teacher ends the mini-lesson by linking the lesson to the work students will do during independent writing; linking is where the teacher reiterates his/her teaching point and directs the students to the work they will be doing during independent writing.

Independent Writing (20-30 minutes): During this time the teacher confers with individual students, takes conference notes and meets with a strategy group(s).

- Strategy Group - Strategy groups are flexible and always changing based on students' needs. They should have no more than six students.
- Mid-Workshop Interruption - An intentional announcement used to communicate a brief pointer, reminder, or compliment halfway through independent practice. While students are working on an independent task, the teacher makes a brief interruption using a signal that gains everyone's attention (e.g. a bell, a patterned clap). Once everyone is attending, the teacher uses the moment to reinforce a teaching point, share an observation, address a misconception, or highlight an exemplar. Afterward, the teacher uses another signal to return students' attention back to their independent tasks. Giving a planned Mid-Workshop Interruption increases students' ability to maintain focus on a challenging task by allowing the brain to refresh and refocus, and is an opportunity to provide a framework for how students can continue working diligently for the remainder of the workshop.

Partner Writing (10 minutes): Students will talk with their partners about their writing. Teachers facilitate the pairing of students based on student needs and skill level; what works in one classroom does not always work in another. Partnerships share their independent writing, ask each other questions and offer one another suggestions to help improve each other's work. Writing partnerships should be long term.

Share (3-5 minutes): Students and teacher return to meeting area to reinforce expectations and good writing habits. Teacher will choose several student/partnership exemplars to share what they did during independent practice.

Instructional Strategies

Shared Reading: Shared reading is an important component as it serves as the time for the teacher to model the active reading strategies (thinking/picturing aloud). This time can serve as an additional opportunity to model print strategies in an authentic setting. A shared reading text is one that can be seen by all students. This is also a time to teach vocabulary within the context of the book.

Close Reading: Reading a shorter text multiple times to uncover layers of meaning that lead to deep comprehension. This is another opportunity to teach vocabulary within the context of the book. This can be accomplished using the following types of text:

- Newspaper/magazine/current events article(s) like Time for Kids, Newsela, ReadWorks, etc.
- Web page excerpt on projector
- Poem
- Song
- Short Stories

Interactive Read Aloud: Reading aloud, one of the most important things teachers (and parents) can do. Reading aloud serves many purposes:

- Provides and promotes enjoyment and bonding
- A model for fluency, expression, and intonation
- Model active reading strategies (predict and infer, connect, visualize/envision, clarify, react, question, evaluate, summarize) to increase comprehension and enjoyment
- Encourage and scaffold conversation surrounding a text
- Reinforce the importance of story elements and story structure
- Increase listening and speaking skills

Use of Mentor Texts: as per the National Writing Project, Mentor Texts are pieces of literature that both teacher and student can return to and reread for many different purposes. They are texts to be studied and imitated. Mentor texts help students take risks and become different writers tomorrow than they are today. They help them try out new strategies and formats. They should be books that students can relate to and can even read independently *or* with some support. A mentor text doesn't have to be in the form of a book; a mentor text might be a poem, a newspaper article, song lyrics, comic strips, technical manuals, essays, etc.

Link to Scope and Sequence Document for Grade 7

Textbooks and Other Resources

Units of Study for Teaching Reading Grades 6-8, Lucy Calkins with Colleagues from the Reading and Writing Project, 2017

Units of Study for Teaching Writing Grade 7, Lucy Calkins with Colleagues from the Reading and Writing Project, 2014

The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum, Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell, 2017

The Reading Strategies Book, Jennifer Serravallo, 2015

The Writing Strategies Book, Jennifer Serravallo, 2017

Renaissance myON Reader

Standards

LA.RL.7	Reading Literature
LA.RL.7.1	Cite several pieces of textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RL.7.2	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.
LA.RL.7.3	Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
LA.RL.7.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative 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.
LA.RL.7.5	Analyze how a drama's or poem's form or structure (e.g., soliloquy, sonnet) contributes to its meaning.
LA.RL.7.6	Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
LA.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 (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).
LA.RL.7.8	(Not applicable to literature)
LA.RL.7.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) 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.
LA.RL.7.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, scaffolding as needed.
LA.RI.7	Reading Informational Text
LA.RI.7.1	Cite several pieces of textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

LA.RI.7.2	Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RI.7.3	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).
LA.RI.7.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
LA.RI.7.5	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
LA.RI.7.6	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.
LA.RI.7.7	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).
LA.RI.7.8	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.
LA.RI.7.9	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) 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.
LA.RI.7.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.7	Writing
LA.W.7.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
LA.W.7.1.A	Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
LA.W.7.1.B	Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
LA.W.7.1.C	Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.7.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal style/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.7.1.E	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
LA.W.7.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
LA.W.7.2.A	Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using text structures (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) and text features (e.g., headings, graphics, and multimedia).
LA.W.7.2.B	Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
LA.W.7.2.C	Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
LA.W.7.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
LA.W.7.2.E	Establish and maintain a formal style academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.7.2.F	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
LA.W.7.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective

technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

LA.W.7.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
LA.W.7.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.W.7.3.C	Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
LA.W.7.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
LA.W.7.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.
LA.W.7.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.7.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
LA.W.7.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.
LA.W.7.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.W.7.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.7.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.SL.7	Speaking and Listening
LA.SL.7.1	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.
LA.SL.7.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.7.1.B	Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
LA.SL.7.1.C	Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed.
LA.SL.7.1.D	Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.
LA.SL.7.2	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.
LA.SL.7.3	Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
LA.SL.7.4	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.

LA.SL.7.5	Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.
LA.SL.7.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
LA.L.7	Language
LA.L.7.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.7.1.A	Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
LA.L.7.1.B	Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
LA.L.7.1.C	Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.
LA.L.7.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.7.2.A	Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie but not He wore an old[,] green shirt).
LA.L.7.2.B	Spell correctly.
LA.L.7.3	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
LA.L.7.3.A	Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.
LA.L.7.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.7.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.7.4.B	Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel).
LA.L.7.4.C	Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
LA.L.7.4.D	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
LA.L.7.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.7.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.
LA.L.7.5.B	Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.
LA.L.7.5.C	Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending).
LA.L.7.6	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.

Grading and Evaluation Guidelines

[ILA Grading Reference Document](#)

Assessment:

Summative: Usually takes place at the end of a large chunk of learning and students/parents/teachers can use the results to see where the students performance lies compared to either a standard or a group of students.

Running Records: Running Records are used to determine students' independent, instructional and frustration reading levels. During the administration of a Running Record, a teacher records the student's reading behaviors, miscues, retelling and answers to literal and inferential comprehension questions, as he/she reads a leveled book. Students' oral reading rate (fluency) – words per minute is also determined via a Running Record. The books are leveled along a gradient from Level A (easiest) to Level Z (hardest).

Reading Common Assessment: Reading of grade level text and questions that prove proficiency on selected NJSLS that align with the unit.

On Demand Writing (WOD): On demand pre-assessments should be done before each unit in order to best assess students' ability within each genre. On demand post-assessments should also be done at the conclusion of each unit in order to show student growth. The on demand writing will be graded using a genre specific rubric based on the Writing Learning Progression. Prompts direct students to compose the best piece of writing they can - narrative, information, or opinion - in a fixed period of time.

Formative: Considered to be the most powerful type of assessment, the results are used to modify and validate instruction. Students receive immediate feedback. Teachers guide students as they monitor their progress and set new learning goals. Examples of formative assessments used during Reading and Writing Workshop include:

- Observations during mini lesson, small groups, and partner work.
- Conferences (anecdotal notes)
- Notes from strategy groups and book clubs.
- Interactive class discussion
- Exit Slips
- Reading responses

Other Details