

# Grade Seven English Language Arts

## Grade 7: English Language Arts

### Big Ideas in Reading:

#### Reading Literature

We engage in reading to learn about others, places, events and ourselves, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

We engage in reading fictional text to support and deepen our understanding about authors, characters, plots, settings, and themes that we read about in literature.

*How do you engage in reading books? How does reading related texts build your understanding of literature?*

### Big Ideas in Writing:

#### Writing About Reading

Writing About Reading is an artifact of a recursive process of students engaging in reading, thinking, jotting, discussing, revising thinking, and writing.

We value academic discourse and the ability to identify, defend, and critique different perspectives.

We value students' ability to create claims and support them with textual evidence based on what is explicitly stated in the text or inferred from the text.

### Big Ideas in Thinking, Talking and Writing about Reading:

#### Writing About Reading in Literature

Characters, settings, and plots evolve over the course of a text and work together to reveal the author's theme.

*How does an author develop a theme over the course of a text through character, plot, or setting?*

*How does a narrator's or character's point of view affect a reader's understanding or enjoyment of a text? How is the point of view of different characters or different narrators the same or different?*

# Grade Seven Science and Social Studies

## Grade 7: Science and Engineering

### Populations and Ecosystems

This unit provides students with the first steps along the path of ecological understanding, with the hope that their future steps will be considered and measured, serving the interests of all life.

- Milkweed bugs
- Sorting Out Life
- Mini-habitats
- Producers
- Follow the Energy

### Books

- *What Do You Find in a Backyard? (Ecosystems Close-Up)* by Megan Kopp
- *Who Needs a Desert?: A Desert Ecosystem (Ecosystem Series)* by Karen Patkau

### Websites

<http://nationalgeographic.org/topics/ecosystems/>

<https://concord.org/stem-resources/virtual-ecosystem>

**Grade 7: Social Studies:** In grade 7, students study the origin of human beings in Africa and in the Mediterranean.

- Human Origins through Neolithic Age
- Mesopotamia
- Phoenicia
- Ancient Israel

### Books

- *The Athenian Acropolis: History, Mythology, and Archaeology from the Neolithic Era to the Present* by Jeffrey M. Hurwit

### Websites

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/>

Lowell Public Schools Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office

# Grade Seven Mathematics

## Grade 7: Mathematics

- Compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions. Include ratios of lengths, areas, and other quantities measured in like or different units
- Recognize and represent proportional relationships between quantities
- Apply and extend previous understandings of addition and subtraction to add and subtract rational numbers
- Understand that multiplication is extended from fractions to rational numbers and signed numbers (integers).
- Understand that integers can be divided, provided that the divisor is not zero, and every quotient is rational.
- Apply properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide.
- Solve real-world math problems involving four operations with rational numbers.
- Solve multi-step real-world problems with positive and negative rational numbers.
- Solve word problems leading to equations of the form  $px + q = r$  and  $p(x + q) = r$ , where  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$  are specific rational numbers. Solve equations of this form fluently. Compare algebraic solutions to arithmetic solutions.



# Grade Seven

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome and congratulations as your child enters Grade 7 in the Lowell Public Schools. Our teachers, coaches and leaders have been working hard on curriculum teams to update your child's program to reach and exceed grade level expectations. The Lowell Public Schools offers standards-based instruction in all classrooms aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. This brochure lays out the plans for the first marking period. Please take some time to read through this brochure with your child and if you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you for your support and I wish your child a safe, productive, and enjoyable school year.

Very truly yours,  
Dr. Joel Boyd  
Superintendent of Schools

**In Literacy**, grade seven students will begin the school year by establishing routines that support a literate life throughout school into adulthood. These routines include choosing engaging books that they can read proficiently and which challenge their thinking. Seventh grade readers will deepen their understanding of the interaction between character, plot, and setting in the development of theme through their study of fiction. Students will also explore how authors develop contrasting points of view in characters and narrators. They will learn how to respond in depth both orally and in writing to texts that they are reading by making claims that they can justify with evidence from the text and logical reasoning. In November, grade seven students will begin an in depth study of informational text with an emphasis on determining central ideas and author's point of view or purpose.

**In Science** You are in an ecosystem. How do you know? Because there are organisms everywhere. An ecosystem is an organizational unit of life on Earth, defined by a physical environment and the organisms that live there. One powerful change agent in just about every ecosystem on Earth is humans. Human mobility, technology, and institutions place pressures on many ecosystems. The first step toward placing less disruptive pressure on natural systems is understanding how they work and what they need to remain healthy.

**In Social Studies**, grade seven students will study the origins of human beings in Africa and the ancient and classical civilizations that flourished in the Mediterranean area. They study the religions, governments, trade, philosophies, and art of these civilizations, as well as the powerful ideas that arose in the ancient world and profoundly shaped the course of world history.

**In Mathematics**, grade seven students will begin their journey of learning that mathematical ideas should be explored in ways that stimulate curiosity, develop depth of understanding, and create enjoyment of mathematics. Because students need to understand mathematics deeply and use it effectively, grade seven students will build on their work in previous grades to develop fluency with rational number arithmetic. Students will solve multistep problems involving positive and negative rational numbers in any form (whole numbers, fractions, and decimals) using tools strategically. Students will further develop their ability to recognize, represent, and analyze proportional relationships in various ways, including by using tables, graphs, and equations. Students will apply these skills to solve real-world problems.

## Ways You Can Support Your Child's Learning

- Ask your child who his or her favorite authors are. Why does your child like their books? What ideas does the author write about? Who are his or her favorite characters? Why?

### Book Titles for Seventh Graders

#### Fiction:

- *The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan and Peter Sis
- *A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz
- *Words in the Dust* by Trent Reedy

#### Non Fiction:

- *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* by Kadir Nelson
- *The Little Black Dress and Zoot Suits: Depression and Wartime Fashions: 1930s to 1950s* by Alison Behnke
- *Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer

### HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for an express regularity in repeated reasoning.