**7th Grade Language and Literature**

**Mrs. Smalls**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description and Objectives**

Welcome to your child’s 7th-grade Language and Literature Class! I am elated to have your scholar as a part of our team. One of my major goals is to prepare our scholars to meet and exceed grade-level standards and expectations. Consequently, I will be utilizing the Georgia Standards of Excellence (<https://www.georgiastandards.org/GeorgiaStandards/Pages/ELA.aspx>) Each lesson will provide activities with real-world applications and instruction with a laser focus on the standards. With guided practice, progress monitoring, and various forms of assessments, scholars will be given many opportunities to demonstrate mastery and utilize their creativity and their learning and academic performance.

**Textbook**

HMH Into Literature Textbook

**Novels**

*The Stolen Party*

*The War of the Wall*

*How the Need to Belong Influences Human Behavior*

*Island Rodeo Queen*

*Violin*

*Where I’m From*

*HMH Stories*

*Mirror Image*

*Monster*

*Monster A Graphic Novel*

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit #1 Development of Characters/Ideas

Unit #2 Central Ideas

Unit #3 Text Structure

Unit #4 Point of View

Unit #5 Summarizing Text

Unit #6 Text Analysis

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

* Minor Grades 65% (Classwork, Quizzes, and Homework)
  + **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**
* Major Grades 40% (Assessments and Unit Text)
  + **Minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period = **2**

**Academic Grading Scale**

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)

* Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
* Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as “incomplete” and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

**Late Work**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits through a behavior an academic contract. Students in grades 6-12 may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion. Completing work on time during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, the teacher must make a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work. Students and parents should refer to the teacher’s course syllabus for specific late work procedures.

**Make-up Work**

Students are expected to make up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.

**Homework**

All scholars will receive a weekly homework sheet on Mondays to complete Monday through Thursday covering grammar and word work. It should not take any longer than 20 minutes to complete daily activity. If your scholar takes longer, it’s ok for them to stop. The scholar is responsible for advising the teacher of any issues or concerns with completing daily activities. We will check homework every day at the beginning of class. Please ensure all homework is returned to school each day in the scholar’s folder. Completed homework sheets should be submitted on Thursdays to receive grades. Homework is 15% of the total grade.

**Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)**

For grades 4-12, after any major assessment, students should have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students should be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment should be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

**AI Guidance**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The unauthorized or improper use of an artificial intelligence (AI) program constitutes academic dishonesty.

Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment**.

**Cell phones** are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students should turn cell phones off and place them in their bookbags.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

Be on time and prepared. This means entering quietly, seated, and working on “Do Now”.

 Place bookbags in designated areas.

 Be respectful of yourself, the teacher, school staff, and others.

 Conduct yourself in a safe, considerate, and responsible manner.

 Respect the property of others.

 NO EATING IN THE CLASSROOM. Water is okay.

 Help keep our classroom organized and neat by cleaning up after yourself.

 NO CELLPHONES in CLASS per the new cellphone policy. If seen it will be taken to the front office and parents will have to pick it up.

 Speak kindly to others.

 Do not leave your desk unless you have permission.

 If you have a question, please raise your hand.

**Tutt Classroom Discipline Plan**

A. Redirect (verbally) the behavior.

B. Parent Cell/Conference (create a partnership with the parent(s) to give them an opportunity to address the behavior. (REQUIRED)

C. Enter the behavior as a minor in Spotlight (Infinite Campus) Three minors will be a major.

D. Referral to counselor

E. Office referral

**Course Materials**

1. Pencils & Pens (black or blue ink)

2. Highlighters

3. Two composition books

4. 2-inch black binder

5. Expo Markers

6. Color Markers

7. Headphones with Wire

8. Binder Dividers

**Wish List**

Disinfectant Wipes

Kleenex

Hand Soap

Paper Towels

**Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System’s policies and procedures.**

**My contact information: Email:** smallni@richmond.k12.ga.gov

**Remind Codes for Class Periods**:

@6862a9k 3rd Period

@de6c39c 4th Period

@he4268 5th Period

@ec4be4 6th Period

**Tutt Middle School Phone Number:** 706-737-7288

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Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to affirm that you have reviewed this document:

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_