

# Parrottsville Elementary School

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Syllabus

### Part 1: Course Information

#### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Ben Conard  
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#### Aspen

Student grades and academic information is available throughout the year on Aspen, each student will get a handout with this password at the beginning of each year (if you have not reset your password).

#### Course Description

This course is a combination of language arts and literature. The literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehending, and thinking are taught. Students gain practice in grammar, punctuation, and writing skills. Assignments include all writing modes identified by the State of Tennessee: persuasive, narrative, and expository. I believe writing is a skill students will use throughout life, and writing, using critical evidence, can help students develop comprehension on various topics. Students will be taught how to develop ideas and organize them into a coherent work. Students will continue learning to use strong word choice, sentence fluency, and their own unique voice. Expanding vocabulary will also be a priority as this further enhances comprehension. In literature, we read classic and contemporary works, including short stories, dramas, and nonfiction. Personal connections, interpretations, and responses to literature are made to show understanding of the text.

Overall, my goal is to help students understand how critical thought, reading and writing will continue to propel them forward throughout their lives, no matter the classes they take or the careers they choose. I look forward to getting to know your child. I know each has their own gifts, talents, interests and experiences.

#### Textbook & Course Materials

## Provided Texts and Resources

- I am Malala
- A Christmas Carol
- Touching Spirit Bear
- Common Core/Performance Coach

\*Teacher will supply any required texts that will be used throughout the year. There is one class set provided, so students will not be bringing them home.

## Course Structure

- This class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activity-based lessons.

## Online Resources

- TN State Standards for ELA:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/>

[massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles4/10-20-17\\_III\\_J\\_Non-](#)

[Substantive Changes to Math ELA Science Standards Attachme](#)

[nt 2 - ELA.pdf](#)

- Cocke County Schools Website:

<http://www.cockecountyschools.org>

- Study Island:

<https://www.studyisland.com>

## Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes

- Student learning outcomes are listed in the table in Part 3 of the syllabus.
- As students master the standards, they will demonstrate independence; build

strong content knowledge; respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline; comprehend as well as critique; value evidence; use technology and digital media strategically and capably; and come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

### Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

<b>Nine Weeks</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<i>Approximate Time*</i>
<b>First Nine Weeks</b>	<u><b>7A: Red Scarf Girl</b></u>	<b>5 weeks</b>
	<u><b>7C: Brain Science</b></u>	<b>4 weeks</b>
<b>Second Nine Weeks</b>	<u><b>7D: Poetry &amp; Poe</b></u>	<b>4 weeks</b>
	<u><b>Poetry in America</b></u>	<b>3 weeks</b>
	<u><b>Informational Writing</b></u>	
<b>Third Nine Weeks</b>	<u><b>Call of the Wild</b></u>	<b>5 weeks</b>
	<u><b>7F: Gold Rush</b></u>	<b>4 weeks</b>
	<u><b>Argumentative Writing</b></u>	
<b>Fourth Nine Weeks</b>	<u><b>Poetry in America</b></u>	<b>1 week</b>
	<u><b>Hidden Figures</b></u>	<b>6 weeks</b>
	<u><b>TCAP testing</b></u>	

\*This is subject to change at the teacher's discretion.

### Part 4: Grading Policy

#### Graded Course Activities

**Assignments** for details about each assignment listed below.

<b>Description</b>
5-A-Days
Quizzes
Tests

Interactive Notebook
Class Work

## **Late Work Policy**

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines. 5 points will be deducted per school day for late work. If a student is absent on the date of a deadline, he or she will be expected to submit the assignment upon return to school. When serious and compelling reasons are presented, late work will be accepted for full credit.

## **Grading Policy:**

Grades will not be weighted in this class. All tests, quizzes, homework, classroom assignments and projects will be on a 100 point scale. Below is the complete grading scale.

**A= 90-100**

**B= 80-89**

**C=70-79**

**D=60-69**

**F=0-59**

## **Viewing Grades in ASPEN (optional)**

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the ASPEN GradeBook in a timely manner. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

## **Part 5: Course Policies**

### **Attend Class**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar.

### **Participate**

Class participation is a very important part of the learning process in this course. Although not explicitly graded, you will be evaluated on the QUALITY of your participation and attendance.

We will use our assessment of your participation to manage borderline grades.

## Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

## Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from the instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

## Incomplete Policy

Please refer to the Coker County School Board policy listed on the Coker County Schools Website

## Academic Dishonesty Policy

This is an example only:

**1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.**

**2. Teachers have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.**

**3. Teachers who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the teachers believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or**

**the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned.**

## **Student Testing Code of Ethics and Security**

It is important for you as a student to know that the following guidelines are to be strictly followed. This year the TNReady test will count at least 10% of your final semester grade. Your work on this test is very important and it deserves your best effort.

I understand that during testing on the days of the assessment, I am responsible for:

- Not having any electronic devices on me or in my purse/backpack/pockets
  - o Including but not limited to cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc. **during testing or during breaks.**
  - o Best practice is for students to leave devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.
  - o If I am caught with a device during testing or during breaks, my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
- Trying my best on the test
  - o If I do not attempt to test (I give **no answers or randomly answer** questions) my test score may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
  - o The testing administrators and proctors in the testing environment will

determine if no answers or random answering is taking place.

o I will focus and put forth effort on the test.

- Being honest and not cheating

- o If I am caught cheating (taking pictures of the test, writing down and passing answers, talking to other students, looking on other computers, using software outside the testing platform), my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

**Course policies are subject to change.** Any changes will be posted on the [website](#).