

Patricia Gillen
English 7
Course Description

Texts used include: Houghton Mifflin Grammar and Composition, First Course; Scott, Foresman Purpose in Literature and Sitton Spelling for Seventh Graders.

In grammar, students review the parts of speech and learn more about sentence structure. They practice integrating these skills into their writing all year long.

In spelling, students work several days a week on different areas, including homophones, abbreviations and many others. There are frequent spelling dictations and even some games.

The literature units allow room for exploration and personal growth and development.

Encounters – Students meet people from all walks of life and learn the literature terms setting, plot and points of view.

Insights – Students learn other points of view and the literary terms flashback, characterization, theme and irony.

Outsider – Students learn how characters their own age deal with the feelings of different-ness adolescence brings.

Heroes – Students develop their own list of heroic traits by reading about real and fictitious characters.

The Adventures of Ulysses – Continuing with the notion of heroes, students learn of Ulysses' attempts to return to his homeland after the Trojan War. This unit is supplemented with the film "The Odyssey."

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – The unit exposes students to science fiction and fantasy through selections by well-known authors.

In addition, during the third quarter, students work on drama. They learn basic acting techniques, parts of the stage, pantomime and vocal production. They learn cooperation and develop confidence by acting in small groups. At the end of the year, as time permits, they perform sections of a play read in the literature book.

Students read three novels during the seventh grade year. In the fall they study Shane by Schafer, to learn how an author develops characterization. In the winter they read Bridge to Terabithia by Paterson, learning about friendship. In the spring, they read Tuck Everlasting, which deals with friendship and the wonder of being alive.