

Seventh Grade English Language Arts (ELA)

Course Description/Mission

*Adda Clevenger Upper School ELA:
Building foundational knowledge and exploring creative depths*

The primary goal of Adda Clevenger's upper school ELA program is to provide student-centered ELA instruction in reading, writing, language, and philosophical inquiry, while also fostering each child's creative potential. This is achieved by knowing every student in-depth. In fact, each year our primary texts and projects often change based on the needs and interests of that year's students. By discovering every child's learning style, strengths, weaknesses, and interests, and then providing them a variety of student-centered learning opportunities, as well as a safe space to explore their unique potential, students become academically competitive and creatively courageous.

In seventh grade ELA, students receive instruction over the course of four units: Magical Realism, Modern Realistic Fiction, Classics: Fantasy Fiction, and Dystopian Fiction. Each unit relates to our 6th grade yearly college and career readiness theme: **Perseverance**. As students progress through each unit, they will ask the overarching essential questions, "What is perseverance?" "What is resiliency?" "What are ways in which I have persevered?" "In what ways have the characters in our novels demonstrated perseverance." These questions regarding perseverance are explicitly investigated in order to facilitate the ACS mission to ensure students make the developmental, social, and intellectual progress necessary to become leaders at school and beyond.

Each student-centered unit begins with a primary reading focus and culminates with a writing performance task which mirrors the prior reading. Over the course of the year, students will receive standard-specific instruction in the following major domains: Reading: *Foundational Skills*, Reading: *Literature*, Reading: *Informational Texts*, Writing: *Informational*, Writing: *Narrative*, Writing: *Persuasive*, Language: *Conventions*, Language: *Vocabulary*. In addition to our in-class reading and writing, students will complete 600 pages of independent reading and construct two critical responses to literature to demonstrate their comprehension of the texts.

Text Examples (These Can and Often Do Change from Year to Year)

Primary ELA Texts:

The Dreamer

The Joy Luck Club

The Secret Garden

Lord of the Flies

READING and WRITING ACROSS the CURRICULUM

In addition to our ELA units, students also receive 4 Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum units, 2 in Science and 2 in Social Studies.

1st Semester:

Social Studies Text - *The Once and Future King*

Science Text - *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*

2nd Semester:

Social Studies Text - *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*

Science Text - *Fever 1793*