

Seventh Grade



LITERATURE

The classical purpose for teaching literature is to cultivate wisdom and virtue within a student so he or she is better able to know and enjoy God and the world He has made. To that end, HCA seeks to choose genuine classics that lift students from the realm of mere pragmatism to the realm of ideals (virtue, truth, beauty) so that they develop the capacity to “think God’s thoughts after Him” as they encounter them in the Scriptures. While we will explore many ideas, a theme that loosely unites several of the texts could be “the hero”-epic, tragic, unlikely. In seventh grade titles include:

- ✓ Beowulf edited by Seamus Heaney
- ✓ Parzival: Quest of the Grail Knight by Katherine Paterson
- ✓ Don Quixote Miguel de Cervantes
- ✓ Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- ✓ Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by J.R.R. Tolkien
- ✓ Animal Farm by George Orwell
- ✓ The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
- ✓ The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
- ✓ The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
- ✓ The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

At the end of seventh grade, students are able to read, discuss, and evaluate passages similar to the following:

The Old Man and the Sea p.103

“But man is not made for defeat,” he said. “A man can be destroyed but not defeated.” I am sorry that I killed the fish though, he thought. Now the bad time is coming and I do not even have the harpoon. The *dentuso* is cruel and able and strong and intelligent. But I was more intelligent than he was. Perhaps not, he thought. Perhaps I was only better armed.



ENGLISH COMPOSITION

This course runs parallel to the literature course. Students explore some of the classics of British, American and European Literature, improving their critical reading skills and enhancing their writing ability primarily through analytical compositions about the literature. Throughout this course, students will write and revise their essays, working to address their individual challenges with classical rhetorical skills: *invention* (developing a topic and using textual evidence), *arrangement* (organizing a paper), and *expression* (grammar, diction, voice).



MATH

In seventh grade, our students continue in the Prentice Hall middle school math series with *Mathematics Course 3*. Many of the same topics from sixth grade are explored but done so with greater depth and with the hope of mastery.

Topics Include:

- ✓ Rational Numbers and Algebraic Expressions
- ✓ Real Numbers and the Coordinate Plane
- ✓ Applications of Proportions and Percents
- ✓ Solving Algebraic Equations and Inequalities
- ✓ Geometry and Measurement
- ✓ Using Graphs to Analyze Data
- ✓ Probability
- ✓ Algebraic Functions
- ✓ Polynomials and Properties of Exponents

At the end of seventh grade, students are able to read, discuss, and evaluate passages similar to the following:

Goals Include:

- ✓ Increase confidence in solving multi-step non-formulaic word problems.
- ✓ Write and solve multi-step algebraic equations and begin to communicate what they represent.
- ✓ Confidently speak the language of math as they develop problem-solving skills.



HISTORY

Students use *The Biblioplan Companion: A Text for Modern History* as the main textbook. The focus is on American history spanning 1850 - present day, but also includes World history, Missionary highlights, and U.S. Geography.



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LOGIC

In accordance with the dialectic stage of the trivium, students begin their study of logic with the text, *Introductory Logic, The Fundamentals of Thinking Well*. Students are introduced to the basic terms and definitions used in logic, statements and their relationships, syllogisms and their validity, arguments in normal English, and informal fallacies.



SCIENCE

Our seventh graders study Earth Science using the text Earth Science, Interactive Science. Topics include geology, meteorology, and astronomy. Geology focuses on earth's interior, earth's composition, sedimentary environments, forces that shape the earth's surface, geochronology and Ohio geology. Meteorology highlights the dynamics of earth's atmosphere, elements of weather, weather systems, storms, climate, and forecasting. Lastly, the study of astronomy includes gravity and motion, the solar system, telescopes, the analysis of starlight, the life-cycle of stars, galaxies, General Relativity, and cosmology.



LATIN

Having finished *Third Form Latin*, seventh-grade students advance to *Fourth Form Latin*, the final text in a four-year series. The focus of the First Form Series is Latin grammar and a small, usable vocabulary. Topics covered in seventh grade include:

- ✓ All Declensions and Conjugations of Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs, and Adverbs
- ✓ Pronouns and Subordinate Clauses
- ✓ Verbals
- ✓ Deponent Verbs
- ✓ Irregular Verbs, Indefinite Pronouns



MEMORY WORK

Each year of middle school, our sixth through eighth-grade students memorize a different book of the Bible. Examples include James and Philippians.



OTHER

- ✓ Weekly Art, Music, PE and Chorale
- ✓ Twice per month students participate in a Scholastic class. With the aim of a restful learning environment, this class focuses on appreciating the cohesiveness of different disciplines.

