

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 7 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Preparing Florida's Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.



To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **seventh grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in seventh grade—along with some important additional skills. **Seventh grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Determining the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative meanings. 
- Analyzing how the form or structure of a drama or poem contributes to its meaning.
- Determining an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyzing how the author distinguishes his/her position from that of others. 
- Writing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.



Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards for Grade 7 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



Now that your child has reached middle school, he/she should be taking on more responsibility for his/her own learning. Parent/teacher conferences may be led by your student. Look for those conferences to focus on examples of student work. Together, talk about ways this work is successful as well as possible ways your student can continue to learn and grow as a reader and effective communicator.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning English language arts at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Utilize the National Gallery of Art “Who Am I: Self Portraits in Art and Writing” for reading, writing and thinking activities at www.nga.gov.



Set up and carry out a family debate night on a topic that concerns you. Incorporate the principles of argument into your more informal discussions with your child.



Ask your child to research summer activity options.



Encourage your child to host or join a book club with friends who have common reading interests.



Work with your child to begin a personal résumé and portfolio and practice filling out electronic applications.



Encourage your child to research his/her favorite hobby.



Ask your child to explain the lyrics of his/her favorite song.



Utilize resources like the Purdue University OWL (Online Writing Lab) at owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5.



Be frequent visitors to your local public library. Let him/her see you choosing, checking out and enjoying books.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

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Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org