

LLW 7

Literature, Language & Writing

Through novels, short stories, and informative articles, students learn foundational reading and analytical skills with a focus on literature. Class discussions and text analysis will help students develop original insights and express their ideas clearly. Throughout the course, students explore classic literary works and practice diverse academic writings in preparation for advanced secondary education.

Students build foundational vocabulary through context clues, word roots and affixes, and synonyms and antonyms, then apply new words in discussion and writing. They also learn to identify literary devices and explain how these choices shape meaning, tone, and theme.

Course Theme

Individual Choices and the World We Share

Across fiction and poetry, students explore how communities shape individual choices, how shared ideals can be challenged or lost, and what makes human life meaningful. Discussions move from concrete questions about fairness, belonging, and choice to guided analysis of power, conformity, and humanity's future.

Novels

Reading and Author	Thematic Focus
Animal Farm George Orwell	Power, fairness, and the loss of shared ideals.
The Giver Lois Lowry	Individuality, memory, and the cost of a controlled society.

Short Stories

Reading and Author	Thematic Focus
The Lottery Shirley Jackson	Tradition, conformity, and the responsibility to question injustice.
The Pedestrian Ray Bradbury	Individual freedom, isolation, and technology's influence on society.
The Last Question Isaac Asimov	Human curiosity, technological limits, and the future of existence.

Reading and Analysis

Students connect theme and historical background, consider connections to the world beyond the text, and support interpretations with evidence. Guided discussion introduces allegory, symbolism, irony, and foreshadowing through the selected readings.

Poetry

Short poems provide an accessible starting point for Grade 7 close reading. Students identify the speaker, paraphrase key lines, examine images and sound, and compare each poem with a related fictional text.

Poem and Poet	Theme and Text Connection	Literary Focus
Dreams Langston Hughes	Hope and lost ideals. Pair with <i>Animal Farm</i> to ask why dreams matter and what happens when shared hopes are betrayed.	Metaphor, imagery, repetition
The Road Not Taken Robert Frost	Choice and uncertainty. Pair with <i>The Giver</i> or <i>The Pedestrian</i> to compare decisions and how people explain their choices.	Symbolism, speaker, tone
There Will Come Soft Rains Sara Teasdale	Nature and human vulnerability. Pair with <i>The Last Question</i> to compare visions of a world beyond human life.	Personification, imagery, rhyme

Vocabulary and Literary Devices

Students build foundational vocabulary through context clues, roots and affixes, and synonyms and antonyms. They apply new words in discussion and writing. Practice begins with simile, metaphor, personification, and imagery, then connects these devices to symbolism, irony, tone, and theme in the readings.

Writing

Essay Type	What it is & Why
Persuasive/Argumentative	Focuses on taking a clear position on a topic using evidence and reasoning to convince readers, helping students develop critical thinking and persuasive communication skills.
Literary Analysis	Examines themes, characters, and literary devices within a text to deepen comprehension and cultivate analytical writing skills.
Comparative	Evaluates similarities and differences between two or more texts or concepts to foster higher-level synthesis and nuanced perspective.

Writing Skills

Thesis construction and outlining; essay structure, organization, and cohesion; evidence extraction and synthesis; editing, review, and revision.

Thematic Writing Practice

Compare how a poem and a fictional text develop a shared theme. Begin with a claim and an evidence-based paragraph, then develop a structured literary analysis or comparative essay.