



English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 (ELAR) 7A Syllabus

Course Name

ELAR 7A

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 – Semester A

Course Information

ELAR 7A is the first semester of this two-semester course.

Welcome to English Language Arts and Reading 7A. Throughout the first semester of Grade 7 ELAR, you will read and write a wide variety of literary and informational texts—all focusing on the theme of how decisions impact our lives and the world around us. We will work through short stories, poetry, and a novel while following this theme. You will have the opportunity to write and respond to the texts as well as your classmates.

We will engage in multiple activities and assignments that will use your prior knowledge and improve your reading and writing skills as we go. You should expect to read and write a lot and to feel more confident in yourself as a person and as a writer by the end of this course. The great thing about English and Reading is that we are constantly building on the foundations that your elementary reading and writing lessons established. What is even more exciting is that each skill, vocabulary term, and text we cover will be used in years to come. You will use and improve on these skills well into high school and university!

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at www.k12.ttu.edu.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. listen, analyze, and evaluate a speaker's message;
2. clarify and support ideas (spoken and written) with evidence and elaborations;
3. use a variety of strategies to understand new vocabulary;
4. recognize and analyze story, plot, setting, and problem resolution in literature;
5. recognize style, tone, mood, and point of view in various genres;
6. write to express, discover, and reflect on personal experiences and readings for appropriate audiences and purposes;
7. use literary devices and figurative language appropriately and be able to identify and analyze them in literature.

ELAR 7 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) website.

Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)

The required books for this course are:

- *Literature: Texas Treasures, Course 2*. Columbus, OH: Glencoe, 2011. ISBN 9780078927751
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain (any unabridged edition)

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Microsoft Word for written assignments to be uploaded (You may also upload PDF documents created from other word processing programs.)
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

This course fulfills Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and some of the skills required include competencies in speaking and listening, research and writing, and media literacy. To complete some of the assignments associated with these TEKS, you will need access to the following technology. Please ask an adult for help operating these devices and software.

- Microsoft PowerPoint or online access to [Prezi](http://prezi.com) for a multimedia slide presentation
- Video camera for oral presentation

Local schools or libraries may be able to provide access to some or all of these technology requirements.

Some assignments will require you to upload a file, and it will be these assignments that will require the software or hardware listed above. It may be helpful to plan ahead by previewing these assignments to determine the type of device or software required.

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page)

Course Organization

This course consists of seven lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Each lesson consists of several sections, each of which is followed by a lesson assignment. Lesson assignments will contain objective, short answer, and essay questions and can be completed only once.

I recommend that you use a spiral notebook for the literary terms and vocabulary words. The information you record in the spiral will provide an excellent study guide for the final exam.

continued →

Submission Procedures

All of your lesson assignments and practice exercises will be completed online. There are three types of assignments: objective (e.g., multiple choice), uploaded documents, and discussions.

Objective Assignments

Some exercises and assignments have multiple choice, matching, or fill-in-the-blank questions. You will need to read the instructions and choose your answer for these types of questions.

Some questions will require you to type longer answers into a text box. For these questions, you should type your answers into a word processing document with the lesson number and assignment name at the top. Save the document with your name and the name of the assignment. Then enter your answers online by copying and pasting into the text box provided. This will help prevent the loss of work should your browser or computer have problems.

Uploaded Assignments

Other assignments will require that you upload one or more documents. When you save your document to your own computer, please include your name and the name of the assignment in the file name. (e.g., JohnSmith_ENG7A_Lesson1_Essay, *without any spaces*). After you have saved your document, you can upload it by following the instructions on the assignment page. Please note that the assignments ask you to create specific kinds of files. It is very important that you read and follow all instructions for the submission of these files.

Discussion Assignments

Discussions allow you to interact with me and other students. For some assignments, I will ask you enter a response into a Discussion and then comment on the work of other students. You will receive a grade on the quality of your participation.

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

| Lesson | Topic | Approximate Time for Completion |
|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lesson 1 | The Difference a Person Can Make | Two weeks |
| Lesson 2 | Choices and Consequences | Two weeks |
| Lesson 3 | What It Means to be a Hero | Two weeks |
| Lesson 4 | <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 1-17 | Two weeks |

| Lesson | Topic | Approximate Time for Completion |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lesson 5 | <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 18-28 | Two weeks |
| Lesson 6 | <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 29-36 | Three weeks |
| Lesson 7 | Poetry | Three weeks |
| Final Exam | | |

Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

| Lesson | Weeks | Assignments |
|----------|-------|--|
| 1 | 1-2 | Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Assignment 1.1: Introduce Yourself Discussion Forum 1.1: Post Your “Mini-Bio” Assignment 1.2: “The Teacher Who Changed My Life” Reading Comprehension Assignment 1.3: Tone, Mood, and Voice *Assignment 1.4: Write a Dialogue with Quotation Marks Assignment 1.5: “Rikki-tikki-tavi” Reading Comprehension Assignment 1.6: Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes |
| 2 | 3-4 | Assignment 2.1: Write About a Quote Discussion Forum 2.1: Post Your Response to the Quote Assignment 2.2: Word Origins Assignment 2.3a: “The Highwayman” Reading Comprehension *Assignment 2.3b: Writing Assignment for “The Highwayman” Assignment 2.4a: Main Verbs and Helping Verbs Assignment 2.4b: Writing a Persuasive Letter Assignment 2.5: Capitalization Assignment 2.6: “Charles” Reading Comprehension Assignment 2.7: Subject-Verb Agreement |
| 3 | 5-6 | Assignment 3.1: Write About Someone You Admire Discussion Forum 3.1: Post Your Admiration Response Assignment 3.2: Gandhi’s Eulogy Reading Comprehension Assignment 3.3: Hyphens Assignment 3.4a: Poetry Assignment 3.4b: Write Your Own Poem *Assignment 3.5: Write an Email |

| Lesson | Weeks | Assignments |
|----------|-------|--|
| | | Assignment 3.6: "Heroes" Reading Comprehension Assignment 3.7: "One's Name is Mud" Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded) |
| 4 | 7-8 | Assignment 4.1a: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 1-5, Part I Assignment 4.1b: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 1-5, Part II Assignment 4.2: Context Clues and Vocabulary Assignment 4.3: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 6-11 *Assignment 4.4: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 6-11, Write a Summary Assignment 4.5: Connotation and Denotation Assignment 4.6a: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 12-17, Part I Assignment 4.6b: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 12-17, Part II |
| 5 | 9-10 | Assignment 5.1: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Thinking about the Characters Assignment 5.2a: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 18-20, Part I Assignment 5.2b: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 18-20, Part II Assignment 5.3: Relative Pronouns Assignment 5.4: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 21-23 Assignment 5.5: Verb Tenses Assignment 5.6a: Analogies, Part I Assignment 5.6b: Analogies, Part II Assignment 5.7: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 24-28 |
| 6 | 11-13 | Assignment 6.1: Foreign Phrases Assignment 6.2: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 29-31 Assignment 6.3: Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases Assignment 6.4a: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 32-36, Part I Assignment 6.4b: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , Chapters 32-36, Part II *Assignment 6.5: Diction |
| 7 | 14-16 | Assignment 7.1a: Elements of Poetry and "Summer" Reading Comprehension Assignment 7.1b: Write a Poem with Sensory Details Discussion Forum 7.1: Post Your Poem Assignment 7.2: Sentence Structure Assignment 7.3: Subordinating Conjunctions Assignment 7.4a: "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout" Reading Comprehension *Assignment 7.4b: Write a Poem with Alliteration and Hyperbole Discussion Forum 7.4: Post Your Poem Assignment 7.5: Compound and Simple Sentences Assignment 7.6a: "Annabel Lee" Reading Comprehension |

| Lesson | Weeks | Assignments |
|--------|-------|--|
| | | *Assignment 7.6b: Write a Poem using Rhyme Scheme and Meter Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded) |
| | | Final Exam |

Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
 - Assignment 1.4: Write a Dialogue with Quotation Marks (35 points)
 - Assignment 2.3b: Writing Assignment for "The Highwayman" (35 points)
 - Assignment 3.5: Write an Email (35 points)
 - Assignment 4.4: Tom Sawyer, Chapters 6-11, Write a Summary (35 points)
 - Assignment 6.5: Diction (35 points)
 - Assignment 7.4b: Write a Poem with Alliteration and Hyperbole (30 points)

- Assignment 7.6b: Write a Poem using Rhyme Scheme and Meter (30 points)
- Summative Final Exam **(30% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date. Student may purchase a single three-month extension for a fee.
- Extensions are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by email. For assignments that require you to upload a PDF or other document, please title your assignment files “lastName_firstName_assignmentName.xxx (.pdf, .doc, .xl, .jpg, etc.)”.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.