



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

## Course Name

ELAR 7B

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 – Semester B

## Course Information

ELAR 7B is the second semester of this two-semester course.

The main theme of ELAR 7B is about exploring the lives of others and the differences they make in the world. You'll do this by reading about both fictional characters and historical figures. You'll also take a close look at poetry and drama and work through a major research project.

ELAR 7B uses journaling activities to help you improve your reading skills so you can get more out of your encounters with various texts. These activities also prepare you for bigger assignments where you turn in an analysis chart, an essay plan, or a complete essay.

There are two units (Unit 3 and Unit 4) with a total of four main writing assignments, two in each unit. Each unit is broken into two parts (Units 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B), with the first part working toward the first main writing assignment, and the second part working toward the second main writing assignment.

## Course Delivery Method

Online

## Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. ask questions of texts and observe genre characteristics and text structures;
2. use textual evidence, use new vocabulary words, and make connections among texts, ideas, and experiences;
3. analyze author's craft through a variety of genres and mimic features and styles in their own formal and informal writing;
4. answer text-dependent questions at varying levels; and
5. demonstrate writing skills and grammar knowledge through a literary analysis, biographical essay, poem, compare and contrast essay, and research report.

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

## Textbook and Materials

### **Textbook(s)**

The required **digital** textbooks for this course are:

- *SpringBoard English Language Arts Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 9781457312939
- *SpringBoard Language Workshop Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 9781457313219
- *SpringBoard Writing Workshop Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 9781457313493
- *SpringBoard Close Reading Workshop Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 9781457310263

*Be sure you have access to the Language Workshop, the Writing Workshop, and the Close Reading Workshop in addition to the regular textbook.*

This digital textbook can only be purchased through the TTU K-12 partner bookstore, MBS (see the [TTU K-12 website](https://www.ttu.edu/mbs/) for a link to MBS). Once you make your purchase, you will receive your credentials to the online textbook and resources via email, and it may take 1-2 business days.

The following required book may be in any format:

- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (any edition)

### **Materials**

No additional materials are required.

## Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://Adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)
- Digital camera or camera phone

## Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** in the Syllabus section of the course)

## Course Organization

This course is organized into two units (broken into four parts) with a midterm and a final examination. Each unit contains the following:

- Individual Lessons
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Reading, Watching, and Learning Activities for the Unit
- Assignments
- A Discussion Board

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.

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## 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
Unit 3A	Choices and Consequences, Part 1	Four weeks
Unit 3B	Choices and Consequences, Part 2	Four weeks
Midterm Exam		
Unit 4A	How We Choose to Act, Part 1	Four weeks
Unit 4B	How We Choose to Act, Part 2	Four 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.

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
3A	1-4	Checkpoint 1 – Introduce Yourself (Non-graded) Journal 3.1 Quiz 01: Reading the Novel Tangerine Journal 3.2 Quiz 02: There's a New Kid in Town Journal 3.3 Quiz 03: Like Mother, Like Son? Journal 3.4 3.5 Assignment - Writing with Consistent Tense Quiz 04: Oh, Brother! Journal 3.6 Journal 3.7 PRACTICE Lesson 3.8: Semicolons (Nongraded) Journal 3.8 PRACTICE Lesson 3.9: Theme (Nongraded) Journal 3.9 3.9 Assignment - Theme of Tangerine (Part 1 of Novel) Quiz 05: SIFTing through Tangerine Journal 3.10 Quiz 06: Same Sport, Different School

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
		3.10 Assignment - Brainstorming with a Graphic Organizer 3.10 Assignment - Plan Your Literary Analysis Essay PRACTICE Lesson 3.11: Conjunctive Adverbs (Non-graded) Journal 3.11 Quiz 07: Seeing Is Believing Quiz 08: Conflicts and Consequences *3.12 Assignment - Final Literary Analysis 3.12 Assignment - Video Reading of Literary Analysis Journal 3.13 Quiz 09: To an Athlete Dying Young Quiz 10: The Final Score Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
<b>3B</b>	5-8	Journal 3.14 Quiz 11: Vocabulary Journal 3.15 Quiz 12: Nelson Mandela in Hollywood Journal 3.16 Quiz 13: A Long Walk to Peace Journal 3.17 Quiz 14: Planning for Research and Citing Sources Quiz 15: Visual Impact 3.18 Assignment - Answer Questions about Charts and Tables Journal 3.19 Journal 3.20 3.20 Discussion - Close Reading of "Invictus" Quiz 16: Comparing Text and Film Journal 3.21 Quiz 17: Language Checkpoint: Using Pronouns Journal 3.22 Quiz 18: Follow the Leader 3.23 Assignment - Research and Plan for your Biographical Essay *3.23 Assignment - Final Biographical Essay
		<b>*Midterm Exam</b>
<b>4A</b>	9-12	Journal 4.24 4.24 Assignment - Write About "The Road Not Taken" Journal 4.25 4.25 Assignment - Write About "Choices" Journal 4.26 Quiz 19: Using Language for Effect

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
		4.27 Assignment - Write a Persuasive Letter Quiz 20: Analyzing a Comedic Monologue Journal 4.28 Journal 4.29 Journal 4.30 *4.30 Assignment - Compare and Contrast Poems Quiz 21: Analyzing and Responding to Narrative Poetry *4.31 Assignment - Write a Bio Poem Journal 4.32 Journal 4.33 4.33 Discussion - Comparing Monologues Quiz 22: Analyzing and Presenting a Dramatic Monologue 4.34 Assignment - Write a Monologue Quiz 23: Language Checkpoint: Using Prepositions Quiz 24: The Beggar and the King Journal 4.35 Quiz 25: Transforming a Traditional Tale
<b>4B</b>	13-16	Journal 4.36 Quiz 26: Using Language to Develop Theme Journal 4.37 Quiz 27: Creating and Presenting a Monologue Journal 4.38 4.38 Assignment - Your Research Question Quiz 28: Putting on the Mask Journal 4.39 Quiz 29: Improvisation Journal 4.40 Quiz 30: Analyzing and Delivering a Shakespearean Monologue Journal 4.41 Quiz 31: Acting for Understanding 4.42 Assignment - Annotated Bibliography Quiz 32: Interpreting Character in Performance 4.43 Assignment - Turn in a Plan 4.43 Assignment - Turn in a Draft Quiz 33: Stage Directions 4.44 Assignment - Turn in Your Works Cited Quiz 34: Exploring: Theatrical Elements *4.45 Assignment - Final Research Report

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
		4.45 Assignment - Video Reading of Research Report Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		<b>*Final Exam</b>

## Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average (for Units 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B), 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)**
  - 3.12 Assignment - Final Literary Analysis
  - 3.23 Assignment - Final Biographical Essay
  - Midterm Exam
  - 4.30 Assignment - Compare and Contrast Poems
  - 4.31 Assignment - Write a Bio Poem
  - 4.45 Assignment - Final Research Report

- Summative Final Exam **(30% of Course Grade)**

## Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

## 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 mail or email.

## 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.