

# 7TH GRADE ENGLISH

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## COURSE SUMMARY

In 7th grade English at Match School, scholars grapple with major themes around race, identity, and the American Dream through a variety of texts. Seventh graders begin the year studying the modern day Native American experience in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Then, scholars jump into the memoir *When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir* by Esmeralda Santiago, a story about the experience of a young girl who emigrates to the U.S. from Puerto Rico. In the third and fourth units of the year, students examine the disillusionment of the American Dream through two famous dramas, *Death of Salesman* by Arthur Miller and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Finally, students will zoom in on a two-week unit studying poetry about the American experience with a special focus on the Harlem Renaissance.

Through in-depth analysis of these texts, seventh graders will explore a variety of cultural perspectives including Native American, Puerto Rican, white middle class, and black working class. Scholars will also learn about key literary devices such as tone, mood, figurative language, and point of view by examining how authors use these devices to convey a theme. Through repeated practice, seventh graders will also fine-tune their annotating skills and build stamina in reading independently.

It is important to note that at Match School this English course exists in conjunction with a 7th grade Composition class in which students build their writing skills.

## COURSE MAP

### UNIT 1 24 LESSONS

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

(/curriculum/7th-grade-english/unit-1/)



### UNIT 2 30 LESSONS

When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir

(/curriculum/7th-grade-english/unit-2/)



### UNIT 3 14 LESSONS

Death of a Salesman

(/curriculum/7th-grade-english/unit-3/)



### UNIT 4 16 LESSONS

A Raisin in the Sun

(/curriculum/7th-grade-english/unit-4/)



### UNIT 5 17 LESSONS

American Poetry

(/curriculum/7th-grade-english/unit-5/)



## HOW TO USE THIS COURSE



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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AT MATCH

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At Match Education we have ambitious goals for our ELA program. Through our teaching, we strive to transform our scholars into critical readers, writers, and thinkers, and we seek to widen our students' perspectives and deepen their character so that they can better understand themselves and the world around them.

Our ELA curriculum is designed around several core beliefs about how students learn best. These beliefs drive the decisions we make about what to teach and how to teach it.

1. **Text First vs. Skills First:** We believe in the power of rich and nuanced texts to spark students' thinking.
2. **Content Selection:** We believe selected texts must both affirm our scholars' cultures and expose them to great literature.
3. **Writing Instruction:** We believe writing instruction should teach scholars to construct and convey persuasive arguments, and express their own voices.
4. **Discussion:** We believe discussion is a powerful tool for testing ideas out and strengthening thinking.
5. **Word Knowledge:** We believe in the importance of building word knowledge through both explicit instruction and exposure to content knowledge.
6. **Lifelong Learning:** We believe that teachers should cultivate voracious, inquisitive readers, writers, and thinkers.

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For more information, view our full *English Language Arts Program Overview* ([https://matcheducation-fishtank-media.s3.amazonaws.com:443/Abbreviated\\_ELA\\_approach\\_document\\_-\\_PROOFREAD.pdf](https://matcheducation-fishtank-media.s3.amazonaws.com:443/Abbreviated_ELA_approach_document_-_PROOFREAD.pdf)).

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