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Language Arts Class Descriptions, 2020-2021

******Please see Electives for descriptions of Public Speaking courses******

Pick one (1) writing course AND one (1) literature course to earn a full Language Arts credit.

WRITING COURSES: Writing courses meet an additional 15 minutes weekly in order to cover writing and grammar.

Introduction to High School Writing

Teacher: Marilyn Groop

Level: 2/3

Credit: Fulfills the writing portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Text: All available from 7SistersHomeschool.com

- *Middle School Guide to Essay Writing*
- *Short-Story Writing: Fairy Tale*
- *Research Writing Readiness*

Additional required materials: Access to computer & word processing

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly (depends upon student's ability & the unit)

Teaching format: Lecture, group writing, class participation, homework

Description: Haven't done much writing so far? This is a class that will take you back to the basics (grammar, sentence structure, writing a good paragraph) and proceed to discuss poetry, short story writing, essays, and a research paper/report.

Writing 9

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 2,3 (extra work required for levels 4 and 5)

Credit: Fulfills the writing portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Text: **Required**

- *Introductory Guide to High School Essay Writing*, available as a downloadable pdf on www.7sistershomeschool.com
- *MLA Research Paper Writing Guide*, available as a downloadable pdf on www.7sistershomeschool.com
- Grammar text TBD

Description: This class seeks to familiarize students with a variety of high school level writing, which includes several essays, a research paper, and creative writing assignments. In-class writing exercises will expand creative and improve clarity. Additionally, solutions to common writing and grammar mistakes will be taught during in-class activities. Weekly homework will include various pages from both the writing text and the grammar workbook.

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Overall, the class will be taught as a level 3. Options will be available for students to take the class at level 2 or level 4. However, students seeking a level 5 will need to do additional writing outside the scope of this class.

Writing 10

Teacher: Will Hahn

Level: 2, 3 (may do extra work for levels 4 or 5)

Credit: Fulfills the writing portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Text: *Intermediate Guide to High School Writing*, www.7sistershomeschool.com

Grammar text TBD

Homework time expectation: 1-3 hours weekly, depending on the proficiency of the writer.

Time will vary greatly while completing the research paper.

Description: This class develops increasing skill in creative writing, essay writing, and research paper writing (MLA format). The class introduces more advanced grammar concepts and helps students to improve their writing through application of these grammar concepts. In addition, solutions to common writing mistakes are covered.

Writing 11

Teacher: Marilyn Groop

Level: 2, 3 (Must do extra work for levels 4 or 5)

Credit: Fulfills the writing portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Prerequisite: This course is designed for current high school juniors (11th grade)

A minimum of 4 students are required to hold this class.

Text:

- *Advanced Guide to Essay Writing:*
<https://7sistershomeschool.com/product/advanced-guide-to-high-school-essay-writing/>
- *Advanced Guide to High School Poetry Writing:*
<https://7sistershomeschool.com/product/advanced-guide-to-high-school-poetry-writing/>
- *Advanced Guide to High School Short Story Writing: Myth Fantasy*
<https://7sistershomeschool.com/product/advanced-guide-to-high-school-short-story-writing-myth-fantasy/>

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly

Description: This class will cover creative writing, essays, and APA research paper.

Writing 12

Teacher: Melanie O'Sullivan

Level: 2, 3 (extra work required for levels 4 and 5)

Credit: Fulfills the writing portion of the language arts credit

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Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Prerequisites: This course is designed for current high school seniors (12th grade)
Students **must** have previous experience with research paper writing.

Text:

- *Guide to Writing a College Application Essay*, www.7sistershomeschool.com
- Mrs. O'Sullivan will provide copies of additional teaching materials.

Homework time expectation: 1-4 hours weekly, depending upon individual student & assignment

Description: The first weeks of this course are spent learning to answer selected prompts for a college application essay. During the remainder of the first semester, students will have the opportunity to practice their time management skills as they simultaneously begin to do research for the required 10-page paper (Chicago style) and complete other writing assignments.

The second semester is spent completing various business, technical, and practical writing assignments such as writing and creating a newsletter (group assignment), different types of business letters, writing a resumé, and much more. (Syllabus will provide all assignments.) Students will also spend time learning to complete forms (such as a medical history). Students **are not expected to provide accurate personal information** (social security numbers, medical conditions, medications, etc.).

In order to fulfill the public speaking requirement for level 3, **all** students will give a formal oral presentation at the end of the year. (Details provided in class)

Note: Students will be required to complete some work during breaks, especially when writing the research paper.

Please note: If a student joins this course after the class has completed the 10-page paper, there will be a \$65.00 fee, payable directly to Mrs. O'Sullivan***

LITERATURE COURSES

British Literature, Level 4/5

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 4, 5

Credit: 1

Meets: Full year, once weekly (Note: May be taken by semester)

Prerequisites: None

Text/Required Materials: Required: McDougal Littell, *The Language of Literature: British Literature* (ISBN-13: 978-0618170753 or ISBN-10: 0618170758) will be used during both semesters. *Many used copies are available at very reasonable prices (under \$20).*

In addition, students must obtain or borrow a copy of the following works:

Fall Semester:

- *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens

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- *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen
- *Macbeth (No Fear Shakespeare)* – This particular book is optional for students who desire a side-by-side plain English version of the play. An entire classical version of the play is printed within *The Language of Literature: British Literature*.

Spring Semester:

- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde
- *The Great Divorce*, by C.S. Lewis
- *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

Description: The British Literature class is for students who are developing literary analysis skills and are beginning to apply critical thinking skills to literary works. Understanding and appreciating quality literature is a goal of this class.

While exploring literary works, students will seek to discern the author's world view, the cultural and timely significance of the work, and the central message of the text. Literary terms and techniques will be used and reviewed throughout each semester, but students should already have a familiarity with elements like conflict, plot, setting, character, and theme. A literary analysis essay and a creative writing assignment will be required each semester. For each book read, students will take brief in-class comprehension quizzes, complete related assignments of literary analysis, and actively participate in discussions. At the end of each semester a cumulative test will be administered.

Students may choose to take this class for the entire year or for one semester.

Cinema as Literature Studies

Teacher: Nancy Petrucci

Level: 2/3 (Leveling up option is available)

Credit: Fulfills the literature portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly (See grid)

Text: Study guides created & provided by teacher

Movies may be borrowed from the library, rented, or viewed on internet (Netflix or Amazon subscription is highly recommended)

Homework time expectation: 2-3 hours weekly

Teaching format: Lecture, homework, in-class discussion

Description: This is a fun, literary analysis class geared toward the visual learner at various academic levels. Students who struggle with reading comprehension, as well as students with a rigorous class schedule will find Cinema as Literature Studies both engaging and thought provoking. Movies provide students the opportunity to explore rich, interesting literary elements and discuss important themes from a biblical worldview. Students will watch, discuss, and write

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about movies that have creative literary devices and cinematic elements, well-crafted characters to study, rich themes waiting to be discovered, and settings that challenge the minds of the audience.

Each movie will be viewed and discussed for two weeks (a total of 15 movies per school year to meet the language arts reading requirement). Movies will be PG, PG-13, or G rated and include book adaptations (classic and modern), historical events, biographies, fantasy/science fiction, comedies, and human-interest topics. **Movie selections are new each year. The movies for 2020-2021 are TBD.**

Assignments will consist of viewing movies at home and answering study guide questions. Students desiring to “level-up” and/or earn bonus points have the option of writing a personal response essay related to each film. Class participation (20% of grade) is essential to overall success, and weekly assignments must be completed in order to earn course credit.

Examples of past movie selections include titles such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1959 & 2008), *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *Sandlot*, *Wonder*, *Saving Mr. Banks*, *Hidden Figures*, *The Great Debaters*, *Back to the Future*, *Captain America*, and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* (2000).

(Please note: These are **not** the movies for 2020-2021.)

Great (Shorter) Tales of Adventure in Literature

Teacher: Will Hahn

Level: Level 2/3 (level up possible)

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Literacy, plus at least one ounce of curiosity

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Text: We will choose from the reading list below. Students may read unassigned books from this list and write reports to level up. Most of these are available freely (as e-book downloads) through either Amazon or Project Gutenberg.

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly

Teaching format: Typically, we will aim to read about **50 pages per week**; most books will take 2 or 3 class meetings to complete. Students will have short-answer questions to answer in the reading guides provided for each story. Level 3 and higher students will write two short papers based on works they have discussed. Enthusiastic and polite participation in class discussion will be an important part of the grade.

Description: So many genres and famous images from recent literature, TV and movies come to us from ideas that were first written down in the 19th century. We’ll read and discuss many great works on this list, each from three distinct angles:

Plot: What happens in the story and what great ideas it touches on

Setting: How did each writer’s life and times influence the things they wrote about?

What values of the 19th century do we see displayed here?

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Theme: What is the value of this book to us in our growth as Christians? How would the great thinkers of Christian faith (some of whom wrote fantasy and science fiction stories themselves!) respond to the ideas in these tales?

NOTE: Having seen the movie is fine but NOT a replacement for reading the tales!

- **Booklist:** *Count of Monte Cristo* (abridged version)
 - *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
 - *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
 - *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
 - *The Christmas Carol*
 - *Frankenstein*
 - *Dracula*
 - *The Island of Doctor Moreau*
 - *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
 - *Jane Eyre*
 - *Pride and Prejudice*
 - *Red Badge of Courage*
 - *Captains Courageous*
 - *Mysterious Island*
 - *The Time Machine*
 - *The Picture of Dorian Grey*
 - *Sherlock Holmes- either Hound of the Baskervilles or The Sign of Four*
 - *Treasure Island*
 - *Silas Marner*
 - *The Cask of Amontillado*

Literature Exploration

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 2, 3

Credit: 1 (if taken all year)

Meets: Full year, once weekly (**Note: May be taken by quarters**)

Prerequisites: None

Text: *Literature*, McDougall Littell, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-51898-2 or

ISBN-10: 0-618-51898-3. Text **will be used during each quarter**. Many used copies are available at very reasonable prices.

Additional Required Materials:

- Quarter 1: *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury
- Quarter 2: *The Pearl*, by John Steinbeck
- Quarter 3: *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe
- Quarter 4: a play by William Shakespeare (TBD)

Description: This class is designed for students who seek to develop a strong foundation for literary analysis.

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While reading a variety of short stories, poems, plays, and excerpts from the anthology listed above, students will focus on literary elements and devices. Additionally, students will learn to understand and analyze an author's purpose, perspective, and style. The historical and cultural contexts of literary works will be explored. Several nonfiction works will be read and studied as well. During each quarter, students will read a novel or play, complete basic literary analysis, and actively participate in a student-led discussion. Depending on the works read, students will write either an essay or creative piece once per quarter. Periodically, in-class quizzes will be administered.