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Language Arts Class Descriptions, 2022-2023

****Please see “Extracurricular Activities” file for Rhetoric Team ****

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

WRITING COURSES: Writing courses may meet an additional 15 minutes weekly (i.e. until 10:40) in order to cover writing and grammar.

Introduction to High School Writing

Teacher: Marilyn Groop and Susan Prosser

Level: 2/3

Credit: 1 when in combination with a Literature class

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 (optional – this is to help the parent)*
- Joy Little’s *Building English Skills, Blue Level*. McDougal, Littell & Company, 1985 (the teacher will provide this)

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.

*Contact teacher before ordering texts and you will be provided with a coupon code.

Writing 9

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 3

Credit: 1 when in combination with a Literature class

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

Texts: *MLA Research Paper Writing Guide*, available as a downloadable pdf on www.7sistershomeschool.com *Easy Grammar: Plus Student Workbook*, by Wanda C. Phillips, Ed.D. ISBN: 978-0-936981-14-7

Homework Time Expectation: 1-2½ hours per week

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 increase creativity and improve clarity. Additionally, solutions to common writing and grammar mistakes will be taught during in-class activities. Weekly homework will include both writing and grammar assignments. 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.

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Writing 10

Teacher: Will Hahn and Susan Prosser

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

Credit: 1 when in combination with a Literature class

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

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

Additional required materials: Access to computer/word processing and Joy Little's *Building English Skills, Blue Level*. McDougal, Littell & Company, 1985 (the teacher will provide this)

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 and Will Hahn

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

Credit: 1 when in combination with a Literature class

Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)

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

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.

*Contact teacher before ordering texts and you will be provided with a coupon code.

Writing 12

Teacher: Barbara Varnell

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

Credit: 1 when in combination with a Literature class

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: none required

Homework time expectation: 1- 4 hours weekly, depending upon the individual student and the particular assignment.

Description: This is a writing course designed to prepare your student for the type of writing they will need for both college and beyond. It will include writing a research paper in Chicago

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Manual of Style format (including teachings on how to avoid plagiarism, how to research a topic, the difference between revising and editing and how to follow unfamiliar rules of citation), making a curriculum vitae (i.e. high school resume), writing a college application essay (what should go in and what should stay out), how to write a letter of recommendation, how to write a cover letter when applying for a job, how to write a good set of instructions, how to sound professional in all your correspondence, how to write a devotional, how to read an article and write a discussion post, designing a multimedia project, how to prepare for and complete an interview, how to conduct and write up the results of an interview, how to take notes on a lecture (or business meeting), how to read and follow a college syllabus. In addition there will be some fiction writing, other essay writing and a public speaking opportunity as well as a few more writing projects scattered throughout the year. Our graduates tell us that while technical writing may not have been their favorite course in college, it was the most useful and Writing 12 is designed to give our seniors a head start.

LITERATURE COURSES

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: **Access to reliable internet, computer, and printer is required**

Study guides are created by the teacher and emailed to the students each week

Movie Source: **Access to streaming services** is highly recommended**

(**Amazon, Apple TV, Disney, Netflix, YouTube, etc.)

* DVD or Blue Ray copies of movies may also be used

Homework time expectation: 2-3 hours weekly

Teaching format: Lecture, homework, in-class discussion

Description: This is a fun literary/cinematic 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. Viewing movies from a literary and biblical perspective provides students with the opportunity to explore well-crafted characters, engaging literary devices, creative cinematic elements, and thought-provoking themes that provide real-life application in today's world.

Assignments will consist of viewing movies at home and answering study guide questions. Students desiring to "level-up" will be required to provide detailed, full-sentence responses for each study guide and write an additional 4-5 paragraph personal response essay for each film. Class participation is essential to overall success, and weekly assignments must be completed to earn course credit.

Each movie will be viewed twice and discussed during a two-week period (a total of 15 movies per school year to meet the language arts requirement). Movies will be PG, PG-13, or G rated and will include book adaptations (classic and modern), historical events, biographies, musicals, fantasy/science fiction, comedies, and human-interest topics. The final movie will be individually chosen whereby each student will complete literary and cinematic analysis through a

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movie summary guide, audience surveys, and creating a “Critics Corner” review with a movie promotion poster or presentation.

Movie selections are new each year (*some movies may be rotated every 3 to 4 years.)

**Examples of past movie selections include titles such as *Woodlawn, Harriet, Call of the Wild, Invictus, Life of Pi, The Count of Monte Cristo, The Old Man and the Sea, Chariots of Fire, Race, Inn of the Sixth Happiness, The Greatest Showman, The Sound of Music, To Kill a Mockingbird, Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959 & 2008), It’s a Wonderful Life, Sandlot, Saving Mr. Banks, Hidden Figures, The Great Debaters, The Importance of Being Earnest, Rudy, Back to the Future, Captain America, Black Panther, Lord of the Rings, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (2000), The Man Who Invented Christmas, Risen.*

Great Christian Writers

Teacher: Kym Smythe

Level: 3

Credit: Fulfills the literature portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly

Text: Great Christian Writers by Sabrina Justison. We will order as a group.

Homework Time Expectation: 1½ -2½ hours per week; varies according to student’s reading pace; accommodations like listening to an audio version of books are acceptable and encouraged.

Additional Required Materials:

The Hiding Place - Corrie Ten Boom

The Practice of the Presence of God - Brother Lawrence

God's Smuggler - Brother Andrew

Something Beautiful for God - Malcolm Muggeridge

Joni - Joni Eareckson Tada

Born Again - Charles Colson (excerpts from, do not purchase yet)

The Screwtape Letters - C. S. Lewis

Teaching Format: Light lecture, strong focus on class discussion

Description: Words began with God, and some of the most wonderful writing ever produced came from the pens of great Christian writers. In this literature course we will read, dig into and discuss books of theology, biographies, novels and devotional works by great Christian writers. This course is appropriate for all high school students, as well as mature 8th graders who are strong readers. Students will read about 150 pages per week and complete questions in the accompanying study guides. We will focus on 2-3 specific literary elements, the historical and cultural contexts as well as the richness of each work.

Literature Exploration

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 2, 3

Credit: Fulfills the literature portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full year, once weekly

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

ISBN-10: 0-618-51898-3. **Text will be used during each semester.** Many used copies are available at very reasonable prices. Alternatively, the teacher has five copies of the text available for students to borrow for the entire year, if needed.

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Homework Time Expectation: 1½ -2½ hours per week; varies according to student's reading pace; accommodations like listening to an audio version of books are acceptable

Additional Required Materials:

Fall Semester: *The War of the Worlds*, by H.G. Wells

Emma, by Jane Austen (movie, exact version – TBD) - Students will rent or stream to watch this selection as a movie. A study guide with analysis will accompany the movie.

The Pearl, by John Steinbeck

Spring Semester: *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, by James McBride

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare (Complete original play is contained in textbook.

Students may opt to read the play in modern English using *No Fear Shakespeare:*

Julius Caesar, ISBN 978-1-58663-847-4)

Description: Want a thorough exploration of literary terms and devices? Literature Exploration creates a solid framework of literary knowledge, which is ideal for students who are new to high school literature classes and students who want a comprehensive review of literary terms and devices prior to completing high school. This class is taught at a level 3 for 9th and 10th graders and level 2 for 11th and 12th graders. Leveling up to a level 3 for 11th and 12th grade can be accommodated within the class.

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 semester, students will read a few novels, complete basic literary analysis, and actively participate in discussions. Periodically, in-class quizzes will be administered.

World Literature

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 3,4,5

Credit: Fulfills the literature portion of the language arts credit

Meets: Full Year, once weekly

Prerequisites: None

Text/Required Materials: Throughout the year, we will read a diverse collection of literary works. Copies of shorter literary works such as excerpts, short stories, and poems will be supplied. Students will obtain or borrow a copy of longer literary works.

Fall Semester –

- *Gilgamesh*, by David Ferry
- *Beowulf: The Warrior*, retold by Ian Serrailier (ISBN: 978-1883937034)
- *Till We Have Faces*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Art of War*, by Sun Tzu

Spring Semester –

- *No Fear Shakespeare: Macbeth*, by William Shakespeare (ISBN: 978-158663-846-7)
- *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe
- *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, by Leo Tolstoy
- *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

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Level 4 and 5 students will read additional short literary works which will be supplied by the teacher for a small copy fee of \$5 payable to the teacher. Level 5 students must obtain a copy of the following additional literary works:

- *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde
- *Bruchko*, by Bruce Olson

Other Required Materials:

- Binder or folder for worksheets and homework
- Paper or notebook
- Pencil or pen

Homework Time Expectation: 2-3 hours per week; varies according to student's pace of reading; accommodations like listening to audio versions are acceptable

Description: Explore the wonderfully diverse voices of the world through literature.

Shorter works, like poems, fables, fairytales, and short stories from classic authors and poets will be read and discussed throughout the year. Novels, from the list above, will be read and contemplated within the context of historical background, cultural background, and author's perspective. For each literary work, we will seek to understand the author's message and its significance.

Literary terms and techniques will be used and reviewed, but students should already have a general familiarity with elements like plot, setting, and character. For each book read, students will take brief in-class comprehension quizzes, complete related creative and comprehension assignments, and actively participate in discussions. Occasional short, written assignments may include personal responses, literary analysis, and creative writing.