

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English I Supplement



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English I Supplement Course Overview

Students should enter this course with a foundation in fiction, drama, poetry, mythology, and nonfiction. This course will provide them with the opportunity to build on that foundation. They will engage in in-depth analysis of more complex literature, view that literature from its historical perspective, and connect it to other arts. They will write literary analyses, logical arguments, informational/explanatory texts, narratives, and focused research projects. These writing tasks will be both formal and informal. Additionally, they will engage in speaking and listening activities that use and incorporate media and technology. As a result of the reading, writing, speaking, and listening students will do in this course, they will grow their vocabulary and their understanding of how to communicate effectively by making skillful choices when expressing themselves with language.

To become critical consumers of text, students will be exposed to increasingly more complex texts to which they apply those skills. The content is both rigorous and relevant and includes high-quality contemporary works as well as the classics of literature. Students will be enriched as they expand their skills and confidence in English language arts through a comprehensive study that includes the following units:

- **Short Stories:** In this unit, students will gain a deeper understanding of common literary elements through the study of selected short stories. The goal will be to teach students how to apply this understanding to their reading, their writing, and their everyday life.
- **Literary Nonfiction:** Students will read a variety of nonfiction forms, including autobiography, memoir, essay, and speech. Selections will focus on writings about growing up, education, liberty, and politics. Students will consider the way in which each of these selections is reflective in nature and encourage readers and listeners to look at events and ideas in a new way.
- **Epic Poetry:** In this unit, students will focus on epic poetry as its own genre. Students will read Homer's *the Odyssey* in its entirety, as well as informational texts providing historical context, and various selections of poetry that draw on Homer's work. As a way of further exploring the theme of the unit, *heroism*, students will also read selected works of nonfiction that address that theme from a more contemporary perspective.
- **Drama:** The focus of this unit will be on drama as a literary form, with an emphasis on tragedy. Students will be introduced to philosophy by reading an excerpt from Aristotle's *Poetics*. They will then read the sources for and the text of Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and compare the treatment of related themes in the two plays.
- **Novel:** This unit will focus on the novel as a literary form. Students will apply and expand their understanding of literary elements as they read *Frankenstein*. Students will explore a number of unifying themes as they read the novel. These concepts will provide the basis for their writing, speaking, and other learning activities throughout the unit. A study of various informational texts will illuminate the historical context of the novel.
- **Poetry:** students will study the genre of poetry and its concentrated blend of sound and imagery, as well as the personal and the universal. Students will examine poetic form, rhyme, meter, devices, imagery and language. Students will study poems from different eras and different cultures. Students will also be introduced to literary criticism, which will provide the basis for a research project and presentation.

Unit 1: Intersection in the New World	
Assignments	
1.	Course Overview

Unit 2: Epic Poetry		
English I Supplement	Assignments	
	1. The Odyssey: Poetry to Prose in Translation	10. Project: Persuasive Letter to Jove
	2. The Odyssey: The Hero's Journey	11. The Odyssey: Narrative Structure and Nuances in Themes
	3. Introduction to Homer and Epic Poetry	12. The Odyssey: Plot and Narrative Structure
	4. The Odyssey: Cultural Context	13. The Odyssey: Character Foils and Irony
	5. The Odyssey: Character Development	14. The Odyssey: Character Growth and Cultural Influence
	6. The Odyssey: Figurative Language	15. The Odyssey: Symbols and Themes
	7. The Odyssey: Epithets	16. The Odyssey: Concluding Themes
	8. The Odyssey: Identifying Themes	17. Project: Point of View - Retelling a Scene*
	9. The Odyssey: Myth, Theme, and Characterization	18. Project: Argumentative Essay - "Who is the Ideal Hero?"
Unit 3: Novel		
English I Supplement	Assignments	
	1. Frankenstein: Form, Structure, and Language	13. Frankenstein: The Subplot
	2. Project: Informative Essay	14. Frankenstein: Revelation and Revenge
	3. Frankenstein: Historical Context	15. Frankenstein: Moral Dilemma
	4. Frankenstein: Plot Elements	16. Frankenstein: Role of Women
	5. Frankenstein: Characterization	17. Frankenstein: Themes and Language
	6. Frankenstein: Themes of Death and Life	18. Frankenstein: Narrator Reliability
	7. Frankenstein: Foreshadowing and Allusions	19. Frankenstein: Author Purpose
	8. Frankenstein: Imagery and Theme	20. Project: Frankenstein - Critical Comparison*
	9. Frankenstein: Use of Language	21. Project: Frankenstein - Research Presentation
	10. Project: Frankenstein - Gothic Influences Research Essay	22. Project: Frankenstein - Creating an Adaptation*
	11. Frankenstein: Clauses and Sentence Structure	23. Conventions of Writing: Semicolons
	12. Frankenstein: Perspective	

(*) Indicates alternative assignment