

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Language Arts 500



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Language Arts 500 Course Overview

Language Arts 500 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of language arts skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Special attention is placed on reading non-fiction texts. Students identify text features and explain how graphic elements lead to comprehension and continue to build grammar skills in support of clear communication. Speaking skills are built upon in this course through memorization and recitation of the powerful Gettysburg Address. Students also learn what good communication is and how to practice this in all areas of their lives. This course specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways:

- **Unit 1:** Demonstrate active reading strategies to find the main idea and analyze meaning of academic words and use sound patterns and syllable patterns to read fluently
- **Unit 2:** Engage with and identify features of nonfiction text and form a historical understanding of the Gettysburg Address and recite it from memory
- **Unit 3:** Understand the components of language and how to use them effectively in writing and presenting information with public speaking in addition to understanding how the English language has changed over time
- **Unit 4:** Explain metacognitive skills to use before, during, and after reading and write a descriptive paragraph, an opinion piece, and a report
- **Unit 5:** Read and evaluate stories, using summarizing skills and comparing and contrasting two different texts and follow the writing process to write a narrative
- **Unit 6:** Use comprehension skills while reading poems to compare/contrast and analyze different types of poetry, identify poetic ideas and devices, and write poems using a variety of formats
- **Unit 7:** Use a variety of comprehension skills in order to understand texts and formulate questions and participate in discussions
- **Unit 8:** Use knowledge of the parts of speech to identify and analyze parts of a sentence, as well as analyzing and writing fables
- **Unit 9:** Summarize information presented in diverse media and formats, interpret information presented in biographies, and construct a report that incorporates facts and opinions

Unit 1: Language Skills	
Language Arts 500	Assignments
	1. Course Overview
	2. The Author's Message
	3. Project: Finding the Topic
	4. Vowel Diphthong Design
	5. Spelling: Vowel Changes
	6. Quiz: The Author's Message and Vowel Diphthong Design
	7. Short Story: Joe's Dilemma Part 1
	8. Vocabulary Study
	9. Academic Language
	10. Quiz: Dialogue, Vocabulary, and Academic Language
	11. Using Spell Check
	12. Project: Spelling Story*
	13. Short Story: Joe's Dilemma Part 2
	14. Quiz: Reading and Writing Efficiently
	15. Unit Review
	16. Special Project*
	17. Test
	18. Alternate Test*
	19. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: The Story of Our Language	
Assignments	
1. Comprehension	13. Project: Multimedia Presentation on an Author*
2. Word and Sentence Study	14. Homonyms, Idioms, and Abbreviations
3. Quiz: Comprehension and Word Study	15. Using Nouns and Adjectives
4. Elements of the English Language	16. Project: Descriptive Narrative
5. Prefixes and Suffixes	17. Initials and Acronyms
6. Project: Book Report - Nonfiction	18. Quiz: Language Confusion and History of Language
7. Phrases, Adjectives, and Adverbs	19. Unit Review
8. Punctuation in a Series	20. Special Project*
9. Quiz: Parts of Speech, Context Clues, and Punctuation	21. Test
10. Writing a Short Story	22. Alternate Test*
11. Language Confusion: Anglo-Saxon	23. Glossary and Credits
12. Middle and Modern English	

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Unit 5: Reading and Writing Stories		
Language Arts 500	Assignments	
	1. Reading for Meaning	13. Quiz: Writing Sentences, Dialogue, and Cursive
	2. Writing About a Text	14. Story Writing
	3. Project: Writing a Summary	15. Using Commas to Introduce
	4. Judging the Value of a Story	16. Project: Short Story
	5. Project: Book Report - Historical Fiction	17. Project: Story Comparison
	6. Quiz: Reading and Summarizing a Story	18. Quiz: Story Writing and Punctuation
	7. Mastering Dialogue	19. Unit Review
	8. Capitalization Rules	20. Special Project*
	9. Project: Making Conversation	21. Test
	10. Project: Seed Ideas*	22. Alternate Test*
	11. Writing Better Sentences	23. Glossary and Credits
	12. Cursive Writing	
Unit 6: Poetry		
Language Arts 500	Assignments	
	1. Reading Story Poems	13. Poetic Ideas and Devices
	2. Dialects in Text	14. Poetic Forms
	3. Enjoying Poetry	15. Project: Pen Pictures and Couplets
	4. Identifying Historical Context in Written Works	16. Project: Free Verse Poem
	5. Project: Rhythm	17. Project: Poetry Book*
	6. Quiz: Poetry and Historical Context	18. Quiz: Poetic Forms and Devices
	7. Poetry	19. Unit Review
	8. Reading Humorous Poems	20. Special Project*
	9. Playing With Words	21. Test
	10. Project: Book Report - Poetry	22. Alternate Test*
	11. Quiz: Humorous Poetry	23. Glossary and Credits
	12. Reading Inspirational Poems	
Unit 7: Reading Comprehension		
Language Arts 500	Assignments	
	1. Cause and Effect	13. Judgments, Inferences, Facts, Opinions, and Mood
	2. Sequence in Gulliver's Travels	14. Vocabulary Practice
	3. Analyzing a Plot: Foreshadowing	15. Preparing for a Discussion
	4. Project: Personal Reaction to Lilliput	16. Asking Questions of a Text
	5. Quiz: Sequence, Foreshadowing, and Personal Reactions in Stories	17. Quiz: Judgments, Vocabulary, and Discussions
	6. Third Person Point of View	18. Identifying Adjectives
	7. Reviewing Nouns	19. Project: Adjectives
	8. Singular and Plural Nouns	20. Adjective Placement
	9. Possessive Nouns; Uses of Nouns	21. Quiz: Adjectives
	10. Pronouns	22. Unit Review
	11. Indefinite Pronouns	23. Special Project*
	12. Quiz: Third Person Point of View, Nouns, and Pronouns	24. Test
		25. Alternate Test*
		26. Glossary and Credits

Unit 8: Working with Words		
Language Arts 500	Assignments	
	1. Main Verbs	11. Aesop and Fables
	2. Verb Forms	12. Project: Fable Rewrite
	3. Subject/Verb Agreement and Contractions	13. Types of Sentences
	4. Participles	14. Project: Fables
	5. Quiz: Verbs	15. Quiz: Fables
	6. Modifying with Adverbs	16. Unit Review
	7. Making Adverbs from Adjectives	17. Special Project*
	8. Showing Comparisons with Adverbs	18. Test
	9. Project: Preparing and Giving an Oral Presentation	19. Alternate Test*
	10. Quiz: Adverbs and Adjectives	20. Glossary and Credits
Unit 9: Reading and Study Skills		
Language Arts 500	Assignments	
	1. Improving Reading Fluency and Study Skills	11. Writing a Report with Facts and Opinions
	2. Short Story: Richard Whittington and his Cat	12. Project: Preparing a Fact and Opinion Report
	3. Project: Summary of Richard Whittington	13. Project: Fact and Opinion Report
	4. Quiz: Reading and Study Skills	14. Quiz: Literary Forms, Fact and Opinion
	5. Maps, Charts, and Diagrams	15. Unit Review
	6. Outlines	16. Special Project*
	7. Project: Book Report - Biography	17. Test
	8. Quiz: Maps, Charts, Diagrams, and Outlines	18. Alternate Test*
	9. Reviewing Literary Forms	19. Glossary and Credits
	10. Analyzing Primary Sources: Persuasion	

(*) Indicates alternative assignment