

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

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## Language Arts 700 Fundamentals



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## Language Arts 700 Fundamentals Course Overview

Students will build on the sequential development and the integration of communication skills in four major areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will expand a foundational understanding of the structure of language and grammar, and use this knowledge to write narratives, technical text, speeches, and research projects. In addition, students will read and comprehend a variety of literature, including poetry and a variety of nonfiction text. 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.

- **Unit 1: Building Blocks for Writing:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the components of complete and effective sentences and paragraphs, utilizing these skills to write and evaluate their own work.
- **Unit 2: Refreshing Your Mechanics Memory:** Students will strengthen their foundational understanding of the mechanics of language, including topics such as capitalization and proper use of quotation marks and commas.
- **Unit 3: People, Places, Things, and Actions:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of grade-appropriate parts of speech, including nouns, pronouns, and the nuances of verb tense.
- **Unit 4: Informational Texts: Letters and Directions:** Students will identify and utilize the form, structure, and language of informational texts such as business letters, personal letters, and technical directions.
- **Unit 5: Reading and Writing Narratives:** Students will build upon the skills of summarizing narrative text, sequencing, and authoring their own narrative.
- **Unit 6: Reading and Writing Narratives:** Students will demonstrate a foundation of speaking and listening skills, with a focus on listening attentively, speaking with correct pronunciation and emphasis, culminating in their delivery of an original speech.
- **Unit 7: Rules for Writing:** Students will delve into the increasingly advanced topic of writing mechanics, mastering all rules of capitalization, spelling, and formatting as expected for this grade level.
- **Unit 8: All About Nonfiction:** Students will encounter a variety of nonfiction texts, include reference materials, historical nonfiction, and newspaper articles, demonstrating an understanding of how to read, analyze, and write about nonfiction.
- **Unit 9: Types of Literature:** Students will examine a variety of literary texts, including studying the elements of poetry and drama, as well as writing a focused research project on the history of drama.
- **Unit 10: Harriet Tubman: A Study Guide:** Students will use a critical lens to analyze literature, specifically focusing on the biography, *Harriet Tubman: the Moses of Her People*, interpreting character, events, and plot structure.

Unit 1: Building Blocks for Writing	
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	Assignments
	1. Course Overview
	2. Sentence Structure
	3. Sentence Patterns (1)
	4. Sentence Patterns (2)
	5. Writing Complete Sentences
	6. Writing Effective Sentences (1)
	7. Writing Effective Sentences (2)
	8. Structure: Informal, Formal, and Nonstandard
	9. Project: Using Sentence Patterns
	10. Quiz 1: Sentence Structure and Patterns
	11. Paragraph Components: Format and Topic
	12. Paragraph Components: Unity and Sequence
	13. Paragraph Patterns and Flaws
	14. Project: Paragraph Practice
	15. Project: Self-Check Questions
	16. Quiz 2: Writing Paragraphs
	17. Special Project*
	18. Review
	19. Test
	20. Alternate Test*
	21. Glossary and Credits

Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	<b>Unit 2: Refreshing Your Mechanics Memory</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	1. Using Capital Letters (1)	8. Project: Using Punctuation
	2. Using Capital Letters (2)	9. Quiz 2: Punctuation
	3. Quiz 1: Capitalization	10. Special Project*
	4. Punctuation: Apostrophes	11. Review
	5. Punctuation: Quotation Marks	12. Test
	6. Punctuation: Parentheses and Hyphens	13. Alternate Test*
	7. Punctuation: Commas	14. Glossary and Credits
	<b>Unit 3: People, Places, Things, and Actions</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	1. Labeling with Nouns	12. Verbs Often Confused (Lie/Lay)
	2. Common and Proper Nouns	13. Verbs Often Confused (Sit/Set)
	3. Nouns and Pronouns	14. Verbs Often Confused (Rise/Raise)
	4. Pronouns (1)	15. Project: Using Verb Tenses
	5. Pronouns (2)	16. Quiz 2: Actions
	6. Pronouns Often Confused	17. Special Project*
	7. Quiz 1: Nouns and Pronouns	18. Review
	8. Present Tense Verbs	19. Test
	9. Past Tense Verbs	20. Alternate Test*
	10. Auxiliary Verbs and Future Tense	21. Glossary and Credits
	11. Perfect Tense Verbs and Conjugation	
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	<b>Unit 4: Informational Texts: Letters and Directions</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	1. Business Letters, Structure, and Form	11. Project: Writing Technical Directions
	2. The Three Types of Business Letters	12. Project: Analyzing Technical Directions
	3. Personal Letters, Structure, and Form	13. Project: Giving a How-to Speech*
	4. The Three Types of Personal Letters	14. Quiz 2: Technical Directions
	5. Project: Writing a Letter of Application	15. Special Project*
	6. Project: Business Letters	16. Review
	7. Essay: Personal Letters	17. Test
	8. Project: Revising a Letter	18. Alternate Test*
	9. Quiz 1: Personal and Business Letters	19. Glossary and Credits
	10. Technical Directions, Purpose, and Features	
	<b>Unit 5: Reading and Writing Narratives</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	1. What Is a Biography?	10. Sketching Characters
	2. Biography of Jackie Robinson	11. Essay: Writing a Character Sketch
	3. Note-taking and Summarizing	12. Essay: Writing a Narrative
	4. Project: Writing a Summary	13. Quiz 2: Writing Narratives
	5. Sequencing	14. Special Project*
	6. Biography of Dolley Madison	15. Review
	7. Essay: Writing a Character Sketch	16. Test
	8. Quiz 1: Reading Narratives	17. Alternate Test*
	9. Narratives	18. Glossary and Credits

Unit 6: Communication		
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Listening Attentively	10. The Art of Public Speaking (1)
	2. Learning to Listen	11. The Art of Public Speaking (2)
	3. Essay: Listening	12. Project: Giving a Speech
	4. Quiz 1: Listen and Learn	13. Quiz 2: Speaking Like a Pro
	5. Meaning, Pitch, and Accent	14. Special Project*
	6. Punctuation and Emphasis	15. Review
	7. Using Gestures	16. Test
	8. Pronouncing Words (1)	17. Alternate Test*
	9. Pronouncing Words (2)	18. Glossary and Credits

Unit 7: Rules for Writing		
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Capitalization: People's Names and First Words	10. Quiz 2: Spelling
	2. Capitalization: Place Names	11. Formatting
	3. Capitalization: Letters	12. Documentation
	4. Capitalization: Time, History, and Science	13. Quiz 3: Formatting and Citation
	5. Capitalization: Institutions and Group Names	14. Special Project
	6. Capitalization: Mixed Capitals	15. Review
	7. Quiz 1: Capitalization	16. Test
	8. Spelling Plurals	17. Alternate Test
	9. Adding Suffixes	18. Glossary and Credits

Unit 8: All about Nonfiction		
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Library Skills and Visual Aids	12. Reading a Newspaper: Special Features and Advertisements
	2. Determining the Author's Message	13. Reading News Magazines
	3. Historical Nonfiction: Autobiography (1)	14. Project: Newspaper Articles
	4. Historical Nonfiction: Autobiography (2)	15. Quiz 2: Nonfiction
	5. Essay: Autobiography	16. Special Project*
	6. Quiz 1: Preparing to Read and Historical Nonfiction	17. Review
	7. Modern Nonfiction: The Informal Essay	18. Test
	8. Project: Descriptive Paragraph	19. Alternate Test*
	9. Essay: Description	20. Glossary and Credits
	10. Essay: The Informal Essay	
	11. Reading a Newspaper	

Unit 9: Types of Literature		
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Works of Fiction	11. The Reading of a Play
	2. Essay: Short Story*	12. Report: Drama
	3. Poetry	13. Figurative Language
	4. Nonsense Words in Poetry	14. Quiz 2: Drama
	5. Report: Poet Biography	15. Special Project*
	6. Essay: Limericks	16. Review
	7. Quiz 1: Fiction and Poetry	17. Test
	8. Dramatic Literature	18. Alternate Test*
	9. History of Drama	19. Glossary and Credits
	10. Elements of Drama	

Unit 10: Harriet Tubman: A Study Guide		
Language Arts 700 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Literary Critique	12. Quiz 2: Pages 72-123
	2. Characterization	13. Writing a Character Sketch
	3. Preface-Page 54	14. Essay: Character Sketch
	4. Pages 53-72	15. Essay: Responding to a Documentary
	5. Facts About Characters	16. Quiz 3: Character Sketches
	6. Essay: Slavery	17. Special Project*
	7. Quiz 1: Preface-Page 72	18. Review
	8. Organization	19. Test
	9. Pages 72-123	20. Alternate Test*
	10. Interpretation and Communication	21. Glossary and Credits
	11. Essay: Harriet's First Mistress	

(\*) Indicates alternative assignment