

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Language Arts 700 Supplement



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Language Arts 700 Supplement Course Overview

Language Arts 700 is a thematic study of literature that explores accounts of earth, space, and survival. Throughout this course, students will delve into texts that span the genres of narrative fiction, poetry, literary nonfiction, and informational texts. Students will demonstrate their understanding of various works by analyzing how common themes like exploration, innovation, and courage are able to transcend diverse time periods and genres. They will also develop their writing skills as they focus on the six traits while producing argumentative, narrative, and expository compositions. With a strong emphasis on close reading instruction, research activities, and speaking and listening tasks, this course will help students expand their understanding of literature while building twenty-first century skills.

To become critical consumers of text, students will be exposed to increasingly more complex texts to which they apply those skills. In English language arts, that critical 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:

- **Unit 1 - Skill Workshop:** In this unit, students will review skills learned in previous courses, while demonstrating a grasp of literary analysis at the sixth-grade level. Students will also have the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of writing, research, and content-area vocabulary.
- **Unit 2 – Lands of Ice and Snow:** This unit focuses on mankind’s struggle with the wild elements of nature. The anchor piece for this unit is the story of a dog that is captured and taken to the wilds of Alaska, where he must adapt and endure its rough terrain during the Klondike gold rush. The novel will highlight themes of survival and adaptation in the natural world. Students will also read a selection of poetry and nonfiction that will cause them to think about man’s relationship with nature and our own mortality.
- **Unit 3 – Courage in Everyday Journeys:** In this unit, students will consider the meaning of courage, both in fictional characters, and in real life. Students will be exposed to a collection that includes the fictional works of Mark Twain, a biography of Steve Jobs, and a historical essay by Susan B. Anthony. Throughout each selection, students will build on their understanding of characterization by comparing the courage of their fictional heroes with that of real men and women.
- **Unit 4 – Sea Journeys:** The unifying theme of this unit is the notion of exploration and discovery. Students will explore the concept of symbolism as they examine how different authors portray the sea as a symbol of adventure and freedom. They will view this symbol as a common thread that links the works of poetry, fiction, and articles throughout the unit. The focal point of the unit, *Treasure Island*, will provide an opportunity for students to examine internal and external conflict as they follow the journey of self-discovery through the eyes of this mythological heroine.
- **Unit 5 – Extreme Frontiers:** The focus of this unit highlights the journey of mankind in the quest to achieve the impossible. Through a collection of narrative fiction, literary nonfiction, biography, and essay, students will be exposed to themes of exploration and discovery. Anchoring this unit is *The First Men in the Moon*, by H.G. Wells. Throughout the course of this science-fiction text, students will examine the visionary quality of men who would dare to stand up to a challenge. Students will also develop their skill in writing and analyzing argumentative essays while learning new strategies to build vocabulary acquisition.
- **Unit 6 – Ancient Lands:** This unit will take students on a journey into ancient history, as they examine the link between mythological stories and contemporary ideas. As students connect with the mythical heroes of ancient Greece and Rome, they will observe the intersection between ancient culture and the values of our modern-day society. Throughout this collection of fictional stories and nonfiction articles, students will develop background knowledge of mythological constructs while considering the ways in which understanding the past can shape our future.

Unit 1: Skills Workshop	
Assignments	
1.	Course Overview

Language Arts 700 Supplement	Unit 2: Courage in Everyday Journeys	
	Assignments	
	1.	The Story of My Life: Introducing Helen Keller
	2.	The Story of My Life: Inferencing
	3.	The Story of My Life: Connotation and Context
	4.	The Story of My Life: Identifying Themes
	5.	The Story of My Life: Characterization
	6.	The Story of My Life: Figurative Language
	7.	The Story of My Life: Symbolism
	8.	The Story of My Life: Conflict and Point of View
	9.	The Story of My Life: Connotative Meaning
	10.	The Story of My Life: Writing a Literary Analysis Paragraph
	11.	The Story of My Life: Writing an Analysis of Theme
	12.	The Story of My Life: Autobiography vs. Biography

Language Arts 700 Supplement	Unit 3: Sea Journeys	
	Assignments	
	1.	Treasure Island: Prereading
	2.	Treasure Island: Using Context for Words and Characterization
	3.	Treasure Island: The Quest Story
	4.	Treasure Island: Tone, Mood, and Characterization
	5.	Evaluating a Text and Textual Features
	6.	Treasure Island: Characterization and Theme
	7.	Treasure Island: Understanding Vocabulary
	8.	Treasure Island: Research Process
	9.	Treasure Island: Writing a Character Analysis
	10.	"Sea Fever": Using Textual Evidence
	11.	Treasure Island: Plot Elements
	12.	Treasure Island: Point of View and Dramatic Irony
	13.	Treasure Island: Developing a Topic
	14.	Treasure Island: Creating a Narrative with Alternate Outcomes
	15.	Treasure Island: Word Choice and Figurative Language
	16.	Treasure Island: Understanding and Using Transitions
	17.	Treasure Island: Organizing a Piece of Writing
	18.	Literary Analysis: Prewrite and Drafting
	19.	Treasure Island: Revising a Text
	20.	Treasure Island: Making and Defending a Claim
	21.	Treasure Island: Writing an Analysis