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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Language Arts 800 Fundamentals



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Language Arts 800 Fundamentals Course Overview

Students will continue to build on the sequential development and the integration of communication skills in four major areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will expand an increasingly advanced understanding of the structure of language and grammar and use this knowledge to write academic-level essays, short stories, literary analyses, and focused research projects. In addition, students will read and comprehend a variety of literature, including poetry and a variety of fiction and 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: Strategies for Reading and Writing: Students will establish a functioning understanding of strategies for successful reading, writing, listening and speaking, including such topics as defining unknown vocabulary, using language appropriately, and speaking and listening effectively.
- Unit 2: Mechanics and the Sentence: Students will utilize increasingly advanced elements of writing mechanics, including a mastery of coordination and subordination in sentences, and the correct use of punctuation such as the hyphen, parentheses, and apostrophe.
- Unit 3: History of Language and Modern Grammar: Students will expand their knowledge of history of the English language, as well as the nature of modern English.
- Unit 4: Exposition: The Formal Essay: Students will read and analyze a variety of formal essays, using this knowledge to compose their own, demonstrating their skill in working with elements such as the thesis statement, introductions and conclusions, and proper source documentation.
- **Unit 5: Exposition:** Students will understand the purpose and use of persuasive techniques in the written and spoken word, closely evaluating propaganda, slanted news, and evaluating the validity of facts vs. opinions.
- **Unit 6: The Power of Words:** Students will examine the nuances of language, including developing effective listening strategies, identifying nonverbal cues, and understanding literal and implied meaning.
- Unit 7: Short Stories: Students will analyze short story elements through a close examination of short stories such as "The Monkey's Paw" and "The Gift of the Magi," using a critical eye to interpret plot, conflict, characters, mood, symbolism, theme, and other literary elements; the unit culminates with students composing an original short story.
- Unit 8: Nonfiction Literature: Students will delve into a wide variety of nonfiction literature, including historical texts and autobiography, and will compose several written pieces to measure their understanding of the unit concepts.
- **Unit 9: Functional Texts and Reading Strategies:** Students will advance their active reading strategies, working with skills such as summarizing and paraphrasing, and will also examine functional and professional texts.
- Unit 10: Sampling Literature: Students will dissect the elements of literature, taking a close look at the world of
 poetry, short stories, and drama to understand aspects such as poetic devices, figures of speech, irony, and etc.

	Unit 1: Strategies for Reading and Writing						
	Assig	Assignments					
	1.	Course Overview	15.	Sentences			
Fundamentals	2.	Unlocking Word Meaning	16.	Paragraphs			
nen	3.	Categorizing Words	17.	Compositions			
dan	4.	Learning Morphemes	18.	Project: Writing a Composition			
Fun	5.	Mastering Confusing Words	19.	Quiz 2: Writing Conventions and Strategies			
800	6.	Using the Dictionary and Diacritical Marks	20.	Developing Listening Skills			
Arts 8	7.	Using a Thesaurus	21.	Speaking Effectively			
	8.	Context Clues and Sequence	22.	Quiz 3: Speaking and Listening			
Language	9.	Project: Reading Unfamiliar Words	23.	Special Project*			
ıngı	10.	Quiz 1: Improving Your Reading	24.	Review			
Ľ	11.	Using Language Appropriately	25.	Test			
	12.	Avoiding the Double Negative	26.	Alternate Test*			
	13.	Words	27.	Glossary and Credits			
	14.	Usage					

	Unit 2: Mechanics and the Sentence							
<u>s</u>	Assignments							
800 Fundamentals	1.	Ending a Thought	12.	Coordination in Sentences (1)				
ame	2.	Linking Ideas	13.	Coordination in Sentences (2)				
pur	3.	Interrupting a Thought	14.	Subordination in Sentences (1)				
0 F.	4.	Following an Introduction	15.	Subordination in Sentences (2)				
80	5.	Quiz 1: Punctuation	16.	Quiz 3: Coordination and Subordination				
Arts	6.	Punctuation: The Apostrophe	17.	Special Project*				
	7.	Punctuation: The Hyphen	18.	Review				
Language	8.	Punctuation: Quotation Marks	19.	Test				
Lan	9.	Punctuation: Parentheses and Italics	20.	Alternate Test*				
	10.	Capitalization	21.	Glossary and Credits				
	11.	Quiz 2: Punctuation and Capitalization						

	Unit 3: History of Language and Modern Grammar						
als	Assig	nments					
800 Fundamentals	1.	The Development of Language	12.	Pronouns			
ame	2.	History of Language and Grammar	13.	Verbs			
pur	3.	The Indo-European Family	14.	Modifiers			
0 FL	4.	Quiz 1: Language Changes	15.	Essay: Parts of Speech			
	5.	The Old English Period	16.	Quiz 3: Modern English Grammar			
Arts	6.	Language and Literature of the Old English Period	17.	Special Project*			
	7.	Middle English	18.	Review			
Language	8.	Essay: Tracing Language Changes*	19.	Test			
Lan	9.	Report: Geoffrey Chaucer	20.	Alternate Test*			
	10.	Quiz 2: Forming the English Language	21.	Glossary and Credits			
	11.	Nouns					

Assig	nments							
1.	Reading: The Formal Essay	12.	Writing the Conclusion					
2.	Essay: Summarizing a Formal Essay	13.	Proofreading					
3.	Analyzing a Formal Essay	14.	Project: Formal Essay					
4.	Report: Analyzing a Formal Magazine Essay	15.	Project: Peer Evaluation					
5.	Project: Analyzing a Historical Formal Essay	16.	Quiz 2: Writing a Formal Essay					
6.	Quiz 1: Reading a Formal Essay	17.	Special Project*					
7.	Choosing a Topic and Writing a Thesis Statement	18.	Review					
8.	Documentation	19.	Test					
9.	Writing the Introduction	20.	Alternate Test*					
10.	Report: Thesis Statement	21.	Glossary and Credits					
11.	Writing the Body							

	Unit 5: Persuasion						
tals	Assignments						
Fundamentals	1.	Convincing Others	11.	Quiz 2: Propaganda			
dan	2.	Distinguishing Fact vs. Opinion	12.	Persuasion: Spoken Factors			
Fun	3.	Reading the News	13.	Persuasion: Unspoken Factors			
800	4.	Analyzing the Author's Credentials	14.	Listening to Persuasion			
Arts 8	5.	Quiz 1: Persuasion	15.	Quiz 3: Persuasion			
	6.	Propaganda Techniques	16.	Special Project*			
nag(7.	Identifying Slanted News and Evaluating Statistics	17.	Review			
Language	8.	Evaluating Sources of Information	18.	Test			
	9.	Project: Truth and Propaganda	19.	Alternate Test*			
	10.	Project: Researching to Persuade	20.	Glossary and Credits			

S	Unit	6: The Power of Words					
800 Fundamentals	Assignments						
ame	1.	Finding the Main Idea	10.	Nonverbal Cues			
ınd	2.	Word Choice	11.	Nonverbal Communication			
. F.	3.	Being a Good Listener	12.	Project: Identifying Nonverbal Cues			
80	4.	Following Directions	13.	Quiz 2: Nonverbal Messages			
Arts	5.	Finding Literal Meaning	14.	Special Project*			
	6.	Listening for Implied and Figurative Meaning	15.	Review			
Language	7.	Speaking Qualities	16.	Test			
	8.	Project: Active Listening	17.	Alternate Test*			
	9.	Quiz 1: Verbal Messages	18.	Glossary and Credits			

	Unit	Unit 7: Short Stories							
	Assig	Assignments							
als	1.	Characters: "The Birthmark"	13.	Project: Prewriting Setting, Mood, Tone, and Theme					
enta	2.	The Narrator's Story: "The Piece of String"	14.	Quiz 3: The Author's Story: Setting, Mood, Tone,					
ame	3.	Project: Characters and Point of View		Symbolism, and Theme					
Fundamentals	4.	Quiz 1: The Author's Craft: Characterization & Point	15.	Project: Writing the Short Story					
0 F.		of View	16.	Project: Peer Editing					
800	5.	Plot: "The Lady or the Tiger?"	17.	Publish It					
Arts	6.	Storytelling: "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"	18.	Project: Final Story					
	7.	Conflict: "The Monkey's Paw"	19.	Quiz 4: Putting It All Together					
Language	8.	Project: Prewriting the Plot	20.	Special Project*					
Lan	9.	Quiz 2: The Author's Story: Plot & Conflict	21.	Review					
	10.	Setting: "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin"	22.	Test					
	11.	Mood and Tone: "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi"	23.	Alternate Test*					
	12.	Theme and Symbolism: "The Gift of the Magi"	24.	Glossary and Credits					

s	Unit	Unit 8: Nonfiction Literature							
Fundamentals	Assig	Assignments							
ame	1.	Biographies	10.	Project: Autobiography Technique					
pur	2.	Autobiographies	11.	Essay: Response to Helen Keller's Autobiography					
0 Ft	3.	Poetry vs. Prose	12.	Quiz 2: Helen Keller					
800	4.	Essay: Special Day	13.	Special Project*					
Arts	5.	Essay: Using Connotations	14.	Review					
	6.	Quiz 1: Nonfiction Genres	15.	Test					
Language	7.	Narration and Point of View	16.	Alternate Test*					
Lan	8.	Helen Keller (1)	17.	Glossary and Credits					
	9.	Helen Keller (2)							

als	Unit 9: Functional Texts and Reading Strategies							
Fundamentals	Assignments							
dar	1.	Functional Texts	9.	Report: Summarizing				
Fun	2.	Professional Texts	10.	Navigating Organizational Patterns				
800	3.	Project: Business Letter and Memo	11.	Quiz 2: Reading Strategies				
Arts 8	4.	Quiz 1: Functional and Professional Texts	12.	Special Project*				
	5.	Reading Strategies	13.	Review				
Language	6.	Finding the Main Idea	14.	Test				
ıngı	7.	Being an Active Reader	15.	Alternate Test*				
Ľ	8.	Project: Paraphrasing	16.	Glossary and Credits				

	Unit 10: Sampling Literature							
Fundamentals	Assignments							
nen	1.	Reading for Meaning	11.	The History of Drama				
dar	2.	Reading and Experiencing Poetry	12.	Elements of Drama				
Fun	3.	Interpreting Poetry	13.	Essay: Play Review*				
800	4.	Project: Summarizing and Paraphrasing	14.	Quiz 3: Drama				
	5.	Quiz 1: Reading for Meaning and Poetry	15.	Special Project*				
Language Arts	6.	Short Story Elements	16.	Review				
ıger	7.	Essay: Short Story Response	17.	Test				
ngu	8.	The Novel	18.	Alternate Test*				
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	10.	Quiz 2: Fiction						

^(*) Indicates alternative assignment