

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		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Course Overview	15. Sentences
	2. Unlocking Word Meaning	16. Paragraphs
	3. Categorizing Words	17. Compositions
	4. Learning Morphemes	18. Project: Writing a Composition
	5. Mastering Confusing Words	19. Quiz 2: Writing Conventions and Strategies
	6. Using the Dictionary and Diacritical Marks	20. Developing Listening Skills
	7. Using a Thesaurus	21. Speaking Effectively
	8. Context Clues and Sequence	22. Quiz 3: Speaking and Listening
	9. Project: Reading Unfamiliar Words	23. Special Project*
	10. Quiz 1: Improving Your Reading	24. Review
	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		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Ending a Thought	12. Coordination in Sentences (1)
	2. Linking Ideas	13. Coordination in Sentences (2)
	3. Interrupting a Thought	14. Subordination in Sentences (1)
	4. Following an Introduction	15. Subordination in Sentences (2)
	5. Quiz 1: Punctuation	16. Quiz 3: Coordination and Subordination
	6. Punctuation: The Apostrophe	17. Special Project*
	7. Punctuation: The Hyphen	18. Review
	8. Punctuation: Quotation Marks	19. Test
	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		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. The Development of Language	12. Pronouns
	2. History of Language and Grammar	13. Verbs
	3. The Indo-European Family	14. Modifiers
	4. Quiz 1: Language Changes	15. Essay: Parts of Speech
	5. The Old English Period	16. Quiz 3: Modern English Grammar
	6. Language and Literature of the Old English Period	17. Special Project*
	7. Middle English	18. Review
	8. Essay: Tracing Language Changes*	19. Test
	9. Report: Geoffrey Chaucer	20. Alternate Test*
	10. Quiz 2: Forming the English Language	21. Glossary and Credits
	11. Nouns	

Unit 7: Short Stories		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Characters: "The Birthmark"	13. Project: Prewriting Setting, Mood, Tone, and Theme
	2. The Narrator's Story: "The Piece of String"	14. Quiz 3: The Author's Story: Setting, Mood, Tone, Symbolism, and Theme
	3. Project: Characters and Point of View	15. Project: Writing the Short Story
	4. Quiz 1: The Author's Craft: Characterization & Point of View	16. Project: Peer Editing
	5. Plot: "The Lady or the Tiger?"	17. Publish It
	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
	8. Project: Prewriting the Plot	20. Special Project*
	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
Unit 8: Nonfiction Literature		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Biographies	10. Project: Autobiography Technique
	2. Autobiographies	11. Essay: Response to Helen Keller's Autobiography
	3. Poetry vs. Prose	12. Quiz 2: Helen Keller
	4. Essay: Special Day	13. Special Project*
	5. Essay: Using Connotations	14. Review
	6. Quiz 1: Nonfiction Genres	15. Test
	7. Narration and Point of View	16. Alternate Test*
	8. Helen Keller (1)	17. Glossary and Credits
	9. Helen Keller (2)	
Unit 9: Functional Texts and Reading Strategies		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Functional Texts	9. Report: Summarizing
	2. Professional Texts	10. Navigating Organizational Patterns
	3. Project: Business Letter and Memo	11. Quiz 2: Reading Strategies
	4. Quiz 1: Functional and Professional Texts	12. Special Project*
	5. Reading Strategies	13. Review
	6. Finding the Main Idea	14. Test
	7. Being an Active Reader	15. Alternate Test*
	8. Project: Paraphrasing	16. Glossary and Credits
Unit 10: Sampling Literature		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	Assignments	
	1. Reading for Meaning	11. The History of Drama
	2. Reading and Experiencing Poetry	12. Elements of Drama
	3. Interpreting Poetry	13. Essay: Play Review*
	4. Project: Summarizing and Paraphrasing	14. Quiz 3: Drama
	5. Quiz 1: Reading for Meaning and Poetry	15. Special Project*
	6. Short Story Elements	16. Review
	7. Essay: Short Story Response	17. Test
	8. The Novel	18. Alternate Test*
	9. Report: History of the Novel	19. Glossary and Credits
	10. Quiz 2: Fiction	

(*) Indicates alternative assignment