

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Language Arts 800



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Language Arts 800 Course Overview

Language Arts 800 is a survey of literature that explores the work of various writers of different time periods through a historical lens, studying a range of classic and contemporary literature to convey themes of American history, natural history, world civilization, and air and space. Students will also develop writing skills while producing informative, argumentative, and narrative compositions. Supported by a balance of fictional and informational texts, students will learn and practice close reading, modeled reading, writing, speaking, and listening strategies. To become critical consumers of text, students will be exposed to increasingly more complex texts to apply those skills, including high-quality contemporary works, the classics of American literature, and Homer's *Iliad*.

- **Unit 1: Skill Workshop:** Students will demonstrate a mastery of the foundational writing and reading skills necessary to succeed in this course and are provided with an opportunity to refresh knowledge of writing, research, and content-area vocabulary.
- **Unit 2: American History Collection:** Students will examine Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* and foundational American documents, utilizing the literature for an examination of literary elements such as theme, historical context, and characterization as well as a backdrop for the dissection of foundational parts of speech, such as homophones, subjunctives, and active/passive voice.
- **Unit 3: Display of Natural History:** Students will examine a variety of literature, including Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and work by Edgar Allan Poe, interpreting theme, character, mood, tone, allusions, and author purpose; this unit culminates in a focused research project and multimedia presentation.
- **Unit 4: World Civilization:** Students will explore the literature and culture of ancient civilizations in Egypt, Greece, and Japan, synthesizing information from various texts to uncover universal themes within literature, examining the role of historical context in literary analysis, and composing an original argumentative essay and visual presentation based on the topic of culture and customs.
- **Unit 5: Fine Art Gallery:** Students will encounter a variety of nonfiction texts and poetry centered on the themes and experiences expressed in the art and literature of a society, including *Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist*, by Jan Greenburg; this unit engages students' writing skills through the composition of original poetry, informational text, literary analyses, and a focused research essay.
- **Unit 6: Air & Space Mezzanine:** Students will explore the autobiographical memoir, *The Early History of the Airplane*, as well as a variety of other fiction and nonfiction works united by the themes of destiny, determination, and vision; using a critical eye to interpret and write academic texts about character, mood, point of view, dialogue, figurative language and structure.

Unit 1: Skills Workshop	
Assignments	
1. Course Overview	14. Reading Fiction
2. Review How to Write an Argument	15. Reading Informational Texts
3. Writing to Explain or Inform	16. Informational Text Practice
4. Writing a Narrative	17. Analyze Text Features
5. Quiz: Writing Arguments, Informative Texts, and Narratives	18. Quiz: Reading Fiction and Nonfiction
6. Alternate Quiz: Writing Arguments, Informative Texts, and Narratives - Form A*	19. Alternate Quiz: Reading Fiction and Nonfiction - Form A*
7. Alternate Quiz: Writing Arguments, Informative Texts, and Narratives - Form B*	20. Alternate Quiz: Reading Fiction and Nonfiction - Form B*
8. Reviewing Sentences	21. Speeches, Presentations, and Discussions
9. Solving Word Mysteries	22. Writing a Business Letter
10. Beyond the Dictionary	23. Project: Word History
11. Quiz: Sentences and Word Choice	24. Special Project*
12. Alternate Quiz: Sentences and Word Choice - Form A*	25. Test: Skills Workshop
13. Alternate Quiz: Sentences and Word Choice - Form B*	26. Alternate Test: Skills Workshop*
	27. Glossary and Credits

Unit 2: American History Collection		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Unit Introduction: Literature Through the Lens of History	27. Alternate Quiz: Little Women Chapters 31-47 - Form A*
	2. Little Women: Transcendental Movement	28. Alternate Quiz: Little Women Chapters 31-47 - Form B*
	3. Little Women: Characterization and Inference	29. Research Essay: Planning
	4. Little Women: Active and Passive Voice	30. Project: Collaborative Discussion
	5. Little Women: Allegory	31. "We Shall Overcome: The Power of Protest Song": Finding Sources
	6. Little Women: Characterization and Passive Sentences	32. Frederick Douglass: Using Evidence
	7. Little Women: Theme of Ambition	33. Research: Addressing Your Audience
	8. Quiz: Little Women: Chapters 1-13	34. "The Road to Valley Forge": Formal Writing
	9. Alternate Quiz: Little Women: Chapters 1-13 - Form A*	35. Research Paper: Publish
	10. Alternate Quiz: Little Women: Chapters 1-13 - Form B*	36. Quiz: Informative Writing
	11. Little Women: Context and Inference	37. Alternate Quiz: Informative Writing - Form A*
	12. Little Women: Vocabulary in Context	38. Alternate Quiz: Informative Writing - Form B*
	13. Little Women: Synthesizing Information	39. "Gettysburg Address": Writing for Audience and Purpose
	14. Little Women: Unknown Words	40. "Paul Revere's Ride" and "O Captain! My Captain!": Historical Context
	15. Little Women: Conditional Mood	41. "Paul Revere's Ride" and "O Captain! My Captain!": Compare and Contrast
	16. Little Women: Subjunctives	42. Research Essay: Proofreading
	17. Quiz: Little Women Chapters 14-30	43. US Constitution: Claims and Citations
	18. Alternate Quiz: Little Women Chapters 14-30 - Form A*	44. Bill of Rights: Public Speaking
	19. Alternate Quiz: Little Women Chapters 14-30 - Form B*	45. Project: Persuasive Texts
	20. Little Women: Spelling and Text Connections	46. Special Project*
	21. Little Women: Spelling and Suffixes	47. Unit Review
	22. Little Women: Elements of Speech and Spellings	48. Project: Civil War Research Paper and Presentation
	23. Little Women: Homophones	49. Test: American History Collection
	24. Little Women: Inferences and Spelling	50. Alternate Test: American History Collection*
	25. Little Women: Vocabulary and Synthesis	51. Glossary and Credits
	26. Quiz: Little Women Chapters 31-47	

Unit 3: Display of Natural History		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1.	Unit Introduction: What do We Really Know about Our Surroundings?
	2.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Context and Allusions
	3.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Characterization
	4.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Imperative Mood and Humor
	5.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Interrogative Mood and Irony
	6.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Word Choice and Allusions
	7.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Subjunctive Mood and Plot Structure
	8.	Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 1-15
	9.	Alternate Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth Chapters: 1-15 - Form A*
	10.	Alternate Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth Chapters: 1-15 - Form B*
	11.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Irony and Allusion
	12.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Dynamic Characters
	13.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Discovering Theme
	14.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Point of View
	15.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Tone and Mood
	16.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Theme and Foreshadowing
	17.	Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 16-30
	18.	Alternate Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 16-30 - Form A*
	19.	Alternate Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 16-30 - Form B*
	20.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Reliable Narrator and Theme
	21.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Context Clues and Characterization
	22.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Allusions and Motivations
	23.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Greek Roots and Genre Research
	24.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Analyze Theme and Characters
	25.	Journey to the Center of the Earth: Multiple Interpretations of a Text
	26.	Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 31-44
	27.	Alternate Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 31-44 - Form A*
	28.	Alternate Quiz: Journey to the Center of the Earth: Chapters 31-44 - Form B*
	29.	"Colors": Point of View and Purpose
	30.	"Your Brain on Blue": Fact or Opinion
	31.	"The Fall of the House of Usher": Word Meaning and Imagery
	32.	"The Fall of the House of Usher": Narrator
	33.	"The Fall of the House of Usher": Mood, Tone, and Foreshadowing
	34.	"The Fall of the House of Usher": Extended Metaphor
	35.	Quiz: "Fall of the House of Usher"
	36.	Alternate Quiz: "Fall of the House of Usher" - Form A*
	37.	Alternate Quiz: "Fall of the House of Usher" - Form B*
	38.	"The False Gems": Task, Purpose, and Audience in Writing
	39.	"The False Gems": Situational Irony
	40.	"The Diamond Necklace": Theme, Historical Context, Prewriting
	41.	"The Diamond Necklace": Compare and Contrast Theme
	42.	"Charles": Context
	43.	"Charles": Dramatic Irony
	44.	Special Project*
	45.	Unit Review
	46.	Project: Research Essay and Multimedia Presentation on the Brain
	47.	Test: Display of Natural History
	48.	Alternate Test: Display of Natural History*
	49.	Glossary and Credits

Unit 4: World Civilization		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Unit Introduction: The Trojan War and The Iliad	28. Alternate Quiz: "The Bear" - Form B*
	2. The Iliad: Charting the Reading	29. "Sweet Nothings": Author Purpose and Parenthetical Citation
	3. The Iliad: Analysis	30. "Sweet Nothings": Structure and Revision
	4. The Iliad: Structure	31. "Sweet Nothings": Euphemisms and Loaded Language
	5. The Iliad: Presenting Evidence	32. "Sweet Nothings": Analyzing Evidence
	6. The Iliad: Epithets	33. "The White Umbrella": Prereading and Analogy
	7. The Iliad: Epic Poem	34. "The White Umbrella": SIFTT Reading Strategy to Analyze
	8. Quiz: The Iliad	35. Quiz: "Sweet Nothings" and "The White Umbrella"
	9. Alternate Quiz: The Iliad - Form A*	36. Alternate Quiz: "Sweet Nothings" and "The White Umbrella" - Form A*
	10. Alternate Quiz: The Iliad - Form B*	37. Alternate Quiz: "Sweet Nothings" and "The White Umbrella" - Form B*
	11. "Home in Amarna": Writing a Summary and Subjunctive Mood	38. "The Medicine Bag": Context and Exposition
	12. "Home in Amarna": Creating Inquiry Questions	39. "The Medicine Bag": Character and Climax
	13. Tutankhamun: Developing an Argument	40. "The Medicine Bag" and "The White Umbrella": Comparative Analysis
	14. "A Very Ancient Ode" and "Spring and Autumn": Reading Poetry	41. "The Medicine Bag" and "The White Umbrella": Write a Literary Analysis
	15. "Recollections of My Children" and "On Beholding the Mountain": Analyzing Poetry	42. Pre-Writing and Research: Cultural History
	16. "A Maiden's Lament": Comparative Analysis of Poetry	43. Research: Cultural History
	17. Quiz: Poetry	44. Special Project*
	18. Alternate Quiz: Poetry - Form A*	45. Unit Review
	19. Alternate Quiz: Poetry - Form B*	46. Project: Argumentative Essay - Culture in America
	20. "The Bear": Plot and Verb Moods	47. Project: Visual Presentation of Cultural Customs
	21. "The Bear": Characterization	48. Test: World Civilization
	22. "The Bear": Vocabulary and Research	49. Alternate Test: World Civilization*
	23. Write a Play	50. Glossary and Credits
	24. "The Bear": Comparing Productions	
	25. Write a Play: Revise and Edit	
	26. Quiz: "The Bear"	
	27. Alternate Quiz: "The Bear" - Form A*	

Unit 5: Fine Art Gallery		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Unit Introduction: Impressionists and Beyond	27. Alternate Quiz: Persuasion, Information, and Critical Analysis - Form A*
	2. Vincent van Gogh: Prologues and Foreshadowing	28. Alternate Quiz: Persuasion, Information, and Critical Analysis - Form B*
	3. Vincent van Gogh: Mood and Tone	29. "American Gothic": Parody
	4. Vincent van Gogh: Summary and Theme	30. "American Gothic": Write a Parody
	5. Vincent van Gogh: Media Type and Meaning	31. "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus": Allusion and Theme
	6. Vincent van Gogh: Implicit and Explicit Characterization in Nonfiction	32. "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus": Theme and Irony
	7. Vincent van Gogh: Metaphor and Meaning	33. The Fall of Icarus: Reading a Painting
	8. Quiz: Vincent van Gogh Introduction	34. The Fall of Icarus and "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus": Synthesize
	9. Alternate Quiz: Vincent van Gogh Introduction - Form A*	35. Quiz: Parody, Allusion, Theme, Synthesis
	10. Alternate Quiz: Vincent van Gogh Introduction - Form B*	36. Alternate Quiz: Parody, Allusion, Theme, Synthesis - Form A*
	11. Vincent van Gogh: Anecdotes in Writing	37. Alternate Quiz: Parody, Allusion, Theme, Synthesis - Form B*
	12. Vincent van Gogh: Organizers and Inference	38. "Taj Mahal": Central and Supporting Ideas and Notetaking
	13. Vincent van Gogh: Setting, Mood, Context Clues	39. "Taj Mahal": Write an Informational Text
	14. Vincent van Gogh: Write a Summary about Plot	40. "Girl Powdering Her Neck": Imagery
	15. Vincent van Gogh: Ellipsis, Making a Claim, Symbolism	41. "Girl Powdering Her Neck": Symbolism
	16. Vincent van Gogh: Analysis	42. "The Red Studio": Connotation, Denotation, Repetition
	17. Quiz: Vincent van Gogh Conclusion	43. Write a Poetry Review
	18. Alternate Quiz: Vincent van Gogh Conclusion - Form A*	44. Special Project*
	19. Alternate Quiz: Vincent van Gogh Conclusion - Form B*	45. Unit Review
	20. Vincent van Gogh: Evidence and Claims	46. Project: Research Essay on Impressionistic Artist
	21. Conducting Research for Informative Writing	47. Project: Multi-media Presentation of an Art Piece
	22. "Head Games": Outlining Persuasion Techniques	48. Test: Fine Art Gallery
	23. "Head Games": Structure	49. Alternate Test: Fine Art Gallery*
	24. "The Camera Does Lie": Figurative Language and Media Literacy	50. Glossary and Credits
	25. "The Camera Does Lie": Critical Reading	
	26. Quiz: Persuasion, Information, and Critical Analysis	

Unit 6: Air & Space Mezzanine		
Language Arts 800	Assignments	
	1. Unit Introduction: Investing in Dreams	28. Alternate Quiz: Structure and Reason in Writing - Form B*
	2. Early History of the Airplane: How to Understand Context Clues	29. "The Modern Faithful Steed": Elements of Argument Writing
	3. Early History of the Airplane: Dialogue	30. Project: Multimedia Claim
	4. Early History of the Airplane: Summarizing and Writer Purpose	31. "The Modern Faithful Steed" and Early History of the Airplane: Compare and Contrast
	5. Early History of the Airplane: Building Analysis, Mood, Tone	32. "Early History of the Airplane": Identify Meaning with Graphic Organizer
	6. Early History of the Airplane: Shifts in Point of View	33. "Modern Faithful Steed": Analysis and Moody Verbs
	7. Early History of the Airplane: Venn Comparison of Wilbur and Orville as Writers	34. "Modern Faithful Steed" and Early History of the Airplane: Conclusion
	8. Quiz: The Early History of the Airplane	35. "Modern Faithful Steed": Proofreading and Punctuation
	9. Alternate Quiz: The Early History of the Airplane - Form A*	36. Quiz: Structure of Writing
	10. Alternate Quiz: The Early History of the Airplane - Form B*	37. Alternate Quiz: Structure of Writing - Form A*
	11. Early History of the Airplane: Thesis Statements	38. Alternate Quiz: Structure of Writing - Form B*
	12. "The Monkey's Paw": Charting Characterization	39. "Living Like Weasels": Figurative Language
	13. "The Monkey's Paw": Alliteration and Diction	40. "Living Like Weasels": Analyzing Structure
	14. "The Monkey's Paw": Dialogue and Ellipsis	41. "Living Like Weasels": Writing Style and Voice
	15. "The Monkey's Paw": Write a Literary Analysis	42. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty": Irony
	16. Reflecting, Editing, Proofreading	43. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty": Dialogue and Characterization
	17. Quiz: "The Monkey's Paw"	44. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" and "The Monkey's Paw": Write a Character Analysis
	18. Alternate Quiz: "The Monkey's Paw" - Form A*	45. Special Project*
	19. Alternate Quiz: "The Monkey's Paw" - Form B*	46. Unit Review
	20. Generation and Use of Steam: Create a Reverse Outline	47. Project: "Modern Faithful Steed": Argumentative Essay
	21. Generation and Use of Steam: Transitions	48. Project: "Living Like Weasels": Multimedia Presentation of Personal Narrative
	22. Generation and Use of Steam: Ethos, Logos, Pathos	49. Test: Air & Space Mezzanine
	23. Writing Informally	50. Alternate Test: Air & Space Mezzanine*
	24. Early Generation and Use of Steam: Writing Formally	51. Glossary and Credits
	25. "The Monkey's Paw": Verbals	
	26. Quiz: Structure and Reason in Writing	
	27. Alternate Quiz: Structure and Reason in Writing - Form A*	
Unit 7: Final Review and Exam		
	Assignments	
	1. Course Review	3. Alternate Course Final: Language Arts 800*
	2. Course Final: Language Arts 800	

(*) Indicates alternative assignment