

Learning English Through Literature

SCOPE OF COURSE

Learning English Through Literature develops and strengthens reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and producing skills, through the study of the newspaper, poetry, story genre, and the novel. A unit on basic language and grammar skills is also included. The course is geared toward the intermediate English language learner, who has some basic English skills.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Basic Skills

- Alphabetizing; using guide words
- Parts of speech; forms of a word
- Choosing the right meaning of a word
- Pronunciation
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Root words
- Reading strategies: survey, question, read, recite
- Writing strategies; the writing process

UNIT 2 – The Newspaper

- Introduction: staff, parts, vocabulary
- The news article: 5W + H questions
- The human interest story: cause and effect
- The business article: making predictions
- Graphics: reading and understanding visual clues, charts and graphs
- Letters to the editor: fact versus opinion
- The political cartoon: analysis and understanding point of view
- Sports section: understanding text and charts
- The movie review: making judgments; demonstrating literary elements
- The advice column: making inferences/expressing opinions
- Classified advertisements: asking questions for information; writing descriptions
- Comics and puzzles: sequencing through reading and writing activities
- Writing a news article
- Grammar: verb forms
- Extension activities: newspaper and Internet use

UNIT 3 – Poetry

- Reading poems for understanding, enjoyment, and personal response
- Increasing vocabulary
- The lives of selected poets
- Literary elements of poetry
- Compare and contrast: two poems
- A poem's point of view
- Writing an organized essay
- Writing original poems
- Using correct English conventions: grammar, spelling, punctuation
- Grammar: adjectives and adverbs

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SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – Story Genre

- Reading and understanding: fables, myths, native american stories, african-american stories, tall tales, and folk tales from various cultures
- Vocabulary of genre and stories
- Literary terms: identification and usage
- Writing original fables and myths
- Writing a compare/contrast essay
- Retelling a folk tale from one’s culture
- Grammar: pronouns, articles, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections

UNIT 5 – The Novel

- Reading for understanding, enjoyment, and personal response
- Understanding literary elements used in novels
- Reading maps and understanding cultural contexts
- Comparing/contrasting two characters
- Making predictions and inferences
- Observing and understanding sequence of an on-going event
- Reading aloud with expression, correct pronunciation, and voice
- Using correct English conventions: grammar, spelling, pronunciation
- Increasing vocabulary
- Grammar: punctuation and spelling rules

Literary Selections

UNIT 3 – Poetry

A Loaf of Poetry – Nayoshi Koriyama
Dreams – Langston Hughes
Morning Song – Sennur Sezer
A Little Girl’s Poem – Gwendolyn Brooks
Dream Deferred – Langston Hughes
Hold Fast Your Dreams – Louise Driscoll
The Road Not Taken – Robert Frost
An excerpt from CrashBoomLove – Juan Felipe Herrera
Smart – Shel Silverstein
Furniture Bash – Shel Silverstein

UNIT 5 – The Novel

Seedfolks – Paul Fleischman

UNIT 4 – Story Genre

Fables

The Old Lion and the Fox
The Fox and the Stork
The Lion and the Mouse

Myths

Persephone and the Seasons
Pandora’s Box

Native American Stories

Granny Squannit and the Bad Young Man
Spring Defeats Winter

African-American Story

Br’er Rabbit Falls Down the Well

Tall Tales

Pecos Bill
Pecos Bill’s Adventures

Folk Tales

The Money Tree
The Best Teacher