

Language Arts 7/8 – A

SCOPE OF COURSE

English Language Arts – 7/8 A&B is designed to be used by students in either 7th or 8th grade. The first semester (A) develops and strengthens reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and presenting skills, through the study of myths and legends, fables and fairy tales, poetry and life lessons, drama, and writing attitude and composition. The course is geared toward the intermediate English Language learner with basic English skills.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Myths and Legends

- Review of alphabet, alphabetical order
- Resources: dictionary, thesaurus
- Reading myths from around the world
- Writing a myth
- Literary elements: theme, characters
- Parts of speech: noun, pronoun, adjective
- Grammar: plural and possessive nouns
- Parts of a story
- Writing process: prewriting, drafting, proofreading, proofreader's marks, publishing
- Prewriting: brainstorming
- Reading legends from around the world
- Writing a legend
- Spelling rules

UNIT 2 – Fables and Fairy Tales

- Reading fables from around the world
- Literary elements: moral
- Reading strategies
- Parts of speech: verbs, adverbs, prepositions, prefix, suffix, root words
- Cause and effect
- Grammar: verb tense
- Capitalization
- Punctuation: commas, quotation marks
- Reading fairy tales
- Compare two fairy tales
- Spelling rules

UNIT 3 – Poetry and Life Lessons

- Reading poems for understanding, enjoyment, and personal response
- Literary elements of poetry: rhyme, rhythm, meter, tone, mood, repetition, figurative language
- Explore multiple formats for poetry: haiku, clerihew, free verse, limerick, sonnet
- Poetic devices
- Grammar: synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, contractions
- Punctuation: apostrophe
- Life of William Shakespeare
- Life lessons: alcohol and drugs
- Spelling rules

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SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – Drama

- Reading a play for understanding, enjoyment, and personal response
- Aristotle's 6 elements of drama: characters, plot, theme, music/rhythm, spectacle, dialogue
- Prediction and inference
- Genre and sub-genre
- Punctuation: quotation marks
- Literary devices: soliloquy
- Perform a scene from a play for an audience
- Reading strategies
- Stage directions
- Audience
- Write a book report
- Spelling rules

UNIT 5 – Writing Attitude and Composition

- Write an essay
- Write a short story
- Learn to paragraph in essays
- Learn to paragraph in stories
- Components of a paragraph
- Components of sentences
- Types of sentences: declarative, exclamatory, interrogative, and imperative
- Types of sentence errors: fragments and run-ons
- Punctuation: period, question mark, exclamation point
- Grammar: subject-verb agreement, conjunctions
- Writing process: pre-writing, drafting, proofreading, proofreader's marks, publishing
- Spelling rules

Language Arts 7/8 – B

SCOPE OF COURSE

English Language Arts 7/8 – A&B is designed to be used by students in either 7th or 8th grade. The second semester (B) develops and strengthens reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and presenting skills, through the study of functional texts, newspaper and informational texts, biography and autobiography, persuasive and research. The course is geared toward the intermediate English language learner with basic English skills.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Functional Texts

- Reading functional texts: following/giving directions, recipes, *How To* instructions, ordering from a menu
- Writing functional texts: directions, *How To* instructions, recipes
- Create PowerPoint and give presentation on how to complete a task
- Maintaining order of events even if the text is not written in order
- Listening: follow directions given orally, note-taking

UNIT 2 – Biography and Autobiography

- Reading biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Visual aides
- Writing a biography: research, interviewing
- Point of view
- Reading Autobiography of Helen Keller
- Literary elements: voice
- Spelling rules

UNIT 3 – The Novel: *A Wrinkle In Time*

- Read a fictional novel
- Reading comprehension questions
- Literary elements: point of view, flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, imagery
- Predictions
- Analogies
- Character traits
- Elements of story: plot, conflict, theme
- Write an essay based on text

UNIT 4 – Persuasive Texts

- Elements of argument
- Gathering facts: note-taking skills, graphic organizers
- Propaganda
- Advertising
- Literary elements: word choice
- Writing process: prewriting, drafting, editing, publishing/presenting
- Fact vs. opinion
- Graphics: reading and understanding visual cues, charts, and graphs
- Business articles
- Political cartoons
- Sports coverage
- Letters to the Editor
- Graphic organizers: 5W + H questions

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SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 5 – Research

- Research skills
- Resources
- Valid sources
- Note-taking
- Transitions and compound sentences
- Format
- Citing sources: within text, Works Cited page
- Paraphrasing/summarizing
- Plagiarism
- Writing process: prewriting, drafting, editing, publishing/presenting
- Write a Research Paper
- Rubrics