

Course Description

Eighth Grade

English/Writing/Literature

Philosophy Statement: The beliefs and practices underlying the teaching of language at Bethesda Christian Academy are guided by current educational research on best practices in literacy and writing. At Bethesda Christian Academy, we believe that Language Arts endeavors to help students find their God-given voice to communicate with clarity, confidence, and commitment. Language Arts will teach students how to speak effectively, write skillfully, listen attentively, and read with discernment in all mandatory and elective courses.

Course Objective: The eighth grade Language Arts program provides students with opportunities and resources to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing to enable students to participate as informed, literate members of society. Instruction provides the students with the necessary skills to write various types of genres and develop an appreciation for the writer's techniques applied within sound pieces of literature. Strategies involve patterns and procedures for students to meet success utilizing the writing process to produce varied types of writing. Instruction advocates techniques for analyzing literature, and multiple opportunities for practice are encouraged.

Materials/Resources:

- *Writing and Grammar* (4th Edition BJU Press)
- *Excursions in Literature* Third Edition (BJU Press)
- Novel - *The Hiding Place*
- TPT supplemental resources

Time Allotment: 85 minutes per day, 2 days per week

55 minutes once a week

Biblical Integration: God created humans to express themselves. God was the first one to express Himself when He created the universe. He continued to express Himself through His Son, His Word, and the Holy Spirit's working in our hearts. Christ-expression is expressing who we are in Christ. Through the study of grammar and writing, we are able to show Christ-expression in various writing techniques and through spoken word.

Writing/Grammar Course Content

Chapter 1: Composing Texts

Weeks 1-3

- I can apply writing concepts and strategies to example texts and contexts from all stages of the writing process.
- I can describe 21st century writing skills.
- I can explain the biblical values underlying good communication.
- I can compose a definition paragraph.

Chapter 2: Sentences

Weeks 3-6

- I can classify a sentence by its function.
- I can determine a sentence's subject and predicate.
- I can use coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, and interjections appropriately in sentences.
- I can punctuate sentences to avoid fragments and fused sentences.
- I can use parallel structures effectively in writing.
- I can create a process paragraph.

Chapter 3: Verbs

Weeks 7-10

- I can classify verbs as action or state of being; transitive or intransitive; and linking, helping, or main verbs.
- I can identify a verb's complement whether direct object, indirect object, predicate adjective, or predicate noun.
- I can express a verb's four principal parts for both regular and irregular verbs.
- I can express a verb's simple, perfect, and progressive forms.
- I can use verb tenses consistently within a written passage.
- I can use verb voice and mood to avoid off shifts in form and perspective.
- I can create a passage using both active and passive voices appropriately.

Updated: October 19, 2023

Vocabulary Course Content

Weekly

- I can utilize vocabulary from literature stories to develop new strategies to enhance reading comprehension, locate unfamiliar words in a story and determine their meanings, acquire new vocabulary identified from an assigned text, enhance understanding of new vocabulary.
- I can learn both the definitional and contextual information about a word.
- I can aim to use new vocabulary in speaking and writing.

Literature Course Content

Weeks 2-4

Shakespeare Unit (Teacher created)

- I can learn basic concepts of early Elizabethan culture.
- I can research and discuss facts about Shakespeare's early life and career.
- I can interpret Shakespearean language.
- I can read and analyze "Sonnet 18" and "Sonnet 130".
- I can create a modern-day Shakespearean drama.

Weeks 9-14

Works by Edgar Allen Poe and other Mystery Short Stories

- I can determine exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution by reading and analyzing various short stories.
- I can compare and contrast characters from various short stories.
- I can analyze characterization, theme, and determine the moral and spiritual issues relating to the stories.
- I can define and identify various types of figurative language in various short stories.
- I can analyze short stories from a variety of cultural and historical backgrounds.
- I can look for and determine biblical and moral lessons after reading various short stories.

- I can “Turn a Short Story into a Movie” by casting, designing a setting and costumes, and explaining why...

Weeks 2-14

Excursions in Literature

Unit 1-2

- I can analyze visual media for tone, theme, meaning and/or technique.
- I can recognize Christ as the supreme example of a true friend.
- I can integrate information presented in different media or formats as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- I can evaluate the quality of friendship by Christ’s standard.
- I can analyze my own friendships in light of Scripture.
- I can recognize how and why a character changes in a story.
- I can demonstrate a working knowledge of genre, short story, and fiction.
- I can identify and explain various literary devices and terms.

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Weeks 15-18

A Christmas Carol - Novella (Excursions in Literature)

- I can determine the plot elements of the novella.
- I can differentiate between static and dynamic characters.
- I can identify conflict and character flaw.

Weeks 28-35

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

- I can listen and discuss the reading of Eve Bunting’s *Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust*.
- I can research and discuss the life of Adolf Hitler.
- I can discuss the implications of WWII and racial injustices.
- I can highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of important characters within the text.
- I can analyze characterization, setting, and theme through critical thought activities, a student-driven study guide, and paragraph responses.

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Areas to Be Evaluated:

- Class participation, homework, test, quizzes
- Individual and group projects
- Usage in writing

Additional Activities:

- Projects will be assigned for the various parts of speech.
- Writing assignments will promote narrative, descriptive and evaluative writing.