

Course Title: Middle School Language Arts I

Teacher: Mr. Darby James Harvey

Contact Information:

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The best time to reach me is: During the afternoon.

Course Overview

We will be doing the *Learning Language Arts Through Literature: The Tan Book* (LLATL) curriculum and using **the integrated language** approach. This approach uses excerpts from literature which will hone in on grammar usage, vocabulary development, writing goals, improved reading skills, and spelling. There will be four assessments attached to this book, administered quarterly. These assessments are used to evaluate your student's progress in the material (LLATL).

In addition to LLATL, students will also be responsible for reading each novel assigned, one per quarter.

To focus in on grammar, *Analytical Grammar: A Systematic Approach to Language Mystery*, will also be used.

Goals

My goal for this class is to help and encourage the students to learn and love the English language and all its intricacies. Most students never foster a love for the language arts, and I hope to change that. By the end of this course your student will feel more confident in writing essays, which is a mainstay in much of high school and college curriculum, and will have a better grasp on grammar usage, as well as having their minds broadened by reading much-loved novels.

Week-by-Week Overview

Below is an estimate of what each week in this curriculum will be covering. I will stick as closely to this as possible, however I do reserve the right to change it as I see fits the year. The weeks will correspond with 1 lesson per week, each lesson comprised of five days, in the book (LLATL) and activities at home. Days 1 and 2 will be done together in class with elements from the remaining days touched upon. The students are expected to complete Days 3-5 at home or in guided study. Students will also be assigned a reading schedule that they must stick to in order to complete each novel in a timely fashion.

Semester I

Week 1 – The Taming of the Shrew

Semester II

Week 19 – Swallows and Amazons
Assessment 2 (Lessons 10-18)

Course Overview

Week 2 – Carry On, Mr. Bowditch	Week 20 – Kidnapped
Week 3 – Bambi	Week 21 – Robinson Crusoe
Week 4 – The Eagle	Week 22 – Wind in the Willows
Week 5 – Little House in the Big Woods Book Study: Carry On, Mr. Bowditch	Week 23 – Caddie Woodlawn Book Study: Big Red
Week 6 – The Story of a Bad Boy	Week 24 – The Gettysburg Address
Week 7 – Prince Caspian	Week 25 – The Gettysburg Address
Week 8 – Ivanhoe	Week 26 – Where the Red Fern Grows
Week 9 – King of the Wind	Week 27 – Where the Red Fern Grows
Week 10 – The Wheel on the School Assessment 1 (Lessons 1-9)	Week 28 – The Railway Children Assessment 3 (Lessons 19-27)
Week 11 – The Wheel on the School	Week 29 – The House at Pooh Corner
Week 12 – How to Conduct Personal Research	Week 30 – Big Red
Week 13 – How to Conduct Personal Research	Week 31 – Anne of Green Gables Book Study: A Horse and His Boy
Week 14 – Jest ‘Fore Christmas Book Study: The Bronze Bow	Week 32 – The Crow and the Pitcher
Week 15 – Swiss Family Robinson	Week 33 – Little Women
Week 16 – Research Essay	Week 34 – Little Women
Week 17 – Research Essay	Week 35 – Invincible Louisa
Week 18 – Research Essay	Week 36 – The Undecided Man Assessment 4 (Lessons 28-36)

Supplies Needed for this Course

- 1 ½” Binder
- Notebook Paper in the notes section of the binder
- Pencils and erasers. Blue or black pen and a red pen.
- *Learning Language Arts Through Literature: The Tan Book* (LLATL)
- *Analytical Grammar: A Systematic Approach to Language Mystery*
- **Novels:** *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*, *The Bronze Bow*, *Big Red*, *The Horse and His Boy*

The Classroom:

Classes will begin on time and be 2 hours long. The hours will be divided into two with *LLATL* being taught in the first hour and *Analytical Grammar* in the second hour. Your student **NEEDS** to be on time to class with their homework done. The students are also **REQUIRED** to have their course book and novels with them every class period. It will be a fun and inclusive environment where everyone gets to thrive!

At Home:

I will expect your student to follow the Assignment Sheet, which is broken up into day-by-day instructions of what to do and how much each assignment is worth. As the parent, I expect you to look over their work and make sure they are doing it all and spreading it out appropriately. There is a place to initial to say they have accomplished it to the best of their ability. Please initial when they have finished an assignment. This lets me know you have seen it and approve! If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me according to the information at the top of the page. Students SHOULD NEVER do all of their homework on one day!

How to Get an ‘A’ in this Class:

- Always do your own work and NEVER cheat!
- Do all of the homework and turn it in on time
- Take good notes in class and pay attention
- Study for the tests and quizzes
- Bring your course books to class EVERYDAY!

Extra Credit

I will make extra credit available on Tests and Quizzes only. I usually do this to allow the student to make up for a silly mistake they may have made. I do not offer any other extra credit in this class. Your student will need to do the homework on time every week and do well on the Tests and Quizzes to receive a good grade.

Absence and Late Work Policies

See your Partnership Agreement for these policies. I WILL NOT accept any homework that is over 2 class periods late unless it has been worked out prior with me. There are no exceptions to this rule! You must text, email or speak to me to work out a new assignment date for sickness, vacations or any other reasons for missing class.

Expectations

You may expect the Teacher to:

- Be prepared, on time and fair in the classroom.
- Respond to phone or email messages within 24 hours.
- Be available for conferences or discussions per appointment.
- Work hard to see every student succeed.

- Be available by text or email to answer questions or concerns.

I will expect the Parents to:

- Be aware of the current assignments for their students.
- Oversee the work at home making sure that students complete the assignments.
- Provide the materials the students need to be successful in this class.
- Proctor the Take-Home Tests, signing and sealing them to be returned to class
- Contact the teacher if there are any problems ASAP
- Check grades every week to see how their child is doing! This is IMPERATIVE. I do not put grades on student's work; I post them to this site with notes. You will need to check this often to make sure your child is getting good grades and to communicate with me.

I will expect the Student to:

- Be polite and have good manners at all times! (See the Code of Conduct)
- Keep current with all assignments.
- Do all of their own work with honesty and integrity
- Ask questions and ask for help when they need it.
- ALWAYS be prepared for class, that includes course material, paper, and writing utensils.