

# **High School Language Arts**

## **Language Arts 9 (1.0 Credit)**

Language arts for grade 9 is an integrated curriculum. Each unit contains thematically related lessons in five domains: reading and the study of literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language study, which includes word knowledge and grammar skills. Topics are presented in ways that help young adolescents relate literacy skills to other aspects of their lives. Writing assignments include narrative, expository, and persuasive/argumentative modes and emphasize the use of details and reasoning to support ideas. Speaking and listening lessons emphasize collaborative discussion skills and peer review. Vocabulary development instruction is integrated into literature and informational text lessons. Each unit ends with an authentic assessment that presents students with a real-world scenario requiring some of the skills they learned in the unit. Literature study focuses on the analysis of different forms of literature and on comparative studies of world literature and literature delivered in different media. Writing and informational text lessons guide students through the stages of research and demonstrate how to evaluate, integrate, and share the information gathered during research. Students are required to share their ideas and analysis using several different modes, including oral and multimedia presentations.

Required Novels (choose one per semester):

- Romeo and Juliet (Semester A)
- To Kill a Mockingbird (Semester B)

Optional Novels (Choose 1 per Semester)

- The Old Man and the Sea
- House on Mango Street
- Fahrenheit 451
- The Odyssey
- Ender's Game
- Speak of Mice and Men

## **Language Arts 10 (1.0 Credit)**

Language arts for grade 10 is an integrated curriculum, with each unit consisting of thematically related lessons in five domains: analyzing literature, analyzing informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language study, which includes word knowledge and grammar skills. The skills that students practice for this course are similar to the skills in English 9 but require more independence and depth of thought. An introductory lesson at the start of each unit helps students identify any areas of weakness and review those topics before starting the more challenging grade 10 lessons. Writing assignments required include fiction, expository, and persuasive, and analytical modes, emphasizing the use of details, evidence, and reasoning to support ideas. Speaking and listening lessons cover collaborative discussion skills, the peer review process, and how to plan and deliver informative speeches and presentations. Vocabulary development instruction is integrated into literature and informational text lessons. Each unit ends with an authentic assessment that presents students with a real-world scenario requiring some of the skills they learned in the unit. Literature study focuses on the analysis of different forms of literature and as well as the evaluation of various modes and forms of writing. Writing and informational text lessons guide students through the stages of a rigorous research process and demonstrate how to evaluate, integrate, and share the information gathered during research. Students are required to share their ideas and analysis using several different modes, including oral and multimedia presentations

#### Required Novels:

- Animal Farm (Semester A)
- Night (Semester B)

#### Optional Novels (Choose 1 per Semester):

- The Catcher in the Rye
- The Bean Trees
- All Quiet on the Western Front
- Lord of the Flies
- Twelfth Night
- Farewell to Manzanar
- Antigone

### **Language Arts 11 (1.0 Credit)**

English for grade 11 is an American Literature course, with units organized chronologically according to periods in literary history. As students read foundation works of literature and other historical documents written between 1600 and 1900, they'll review and extend skills in five domains: analyzing literature, analyzing informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language study, which includes word knowledge and grammar skills. Each module or unit begins with a lesson that provides historical context for the era and introduces themes that emerged in the literature of that era. Each lesson provides students with an opportunity to review basic analysis skills before applying those skills to works of literature or key historical documents. Lessons focused on more difficult historical documents include activities that help students comprehend the complex ideas in these works. Writing modes include narrative, reflective, persuasive, and analytical modes. Assignments emphasize the use of details, evidence, and reasoning to support ideas; writing lessons include model essays that demonstrate key features of each mode. The speaking and listening lessons cover rhetoric, the peer review or writing workshop process, and performance skills. Vocabulary development instruction is integrated into literature and informational text lessons. Each unit ends with an authentic assessment that presents students with a real-world scenario requiring some of the skills they learned in the unit. Units focused on historical eras and literary movements of the 20th and 21st century, such as Naturalism, Imagism, the Harlem Renaissance, and Post-Modernism. Literature analysis lessons focus on the forms of literature that were most commonly written during the Twentieth Century and how the forms, styles, and techniques of that century inform literature written today. Students will also evaluate various modes and forms of language expression, including single media and multimedia messages. Writing and informational text lessons guide students through the stages of a rigorous research process and demonstrate how to evaluate, integrate, and share the information gathered during research. Students are required to share their ideas and analysis using several different modes, including oral and multimedia presentations.

#### Required Novels:

- The Scarlet Letter (Semester A)
- The Great Gatsby (Semester B)

#### Optional Novels (Choose 1 per Semester):

- Death of a Salesman
- A Farewell to Arms
- My Antonia
- A Lesson Before Dying
- Black Boy
- The Island
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

### **Language Arts 12 (1.0 Credit)**

Students examine major works of literature organized into thematic units. Each unit contains poetry, short stories, and a novel that revolve around the theme for the unit. Themes include the self, relationships, alienation, choice, and death. As students read these works, they have the opportunity to reflect on these important themes by writing in multiple modes and creating cross-disciplinary projects.

#### Novels:

- *1984*
- *Catcher in the Rye*
- *Cry The Beloved Country*
- *Jane Eyre*
- *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*
- *The Kite Runner*
- *Things They Carried*

### **Creative Writing ( 1.0 Credit )**

At the beginning of the course, students consider the importance of word play exercises in improving their facility with language while building a compelling and creative writing style. Focusing on word nuances and precision, later lessons guide students to write in a variety of short modes—including poetry, song lyrics, prose poetry, short short stories, and creative nonfiction. There are several opportunities for peer review in this semester, during which students learn best practices for participating in writing workshops, and then revise their work using feedback from their peers. The second half of the course focuses on longer works of fiction: short stories, plays, and novels. Students learn basic techniques of plot and character development along with strategies for creating suspense and building a theme, and they have opportunities to write in several different genres. Lessons cover a few special topics as well, including graphic novels, animation, comedy, and improvisation. Students apply what they have learned about writing workshops and revising to the longer pieces of writing they create for this semester.

### **Contemporary Novels ( .5 Credit )**

For this course, students will read a set of novels and novellas that were written during the twentieth century and reflect themes common to contemporary literature, such as the ability of the human spirit to rise above seemingly-impossible circumstances. Through creative projects and writing assignments, students will identify and analyze each novel's themes and also compare and contrast the novels' treatment of common themes. Please note that, like most contemporary literature, the novels assigned for this course contain realistic situations and language. In addition to the novels listed, each student will read another contemporary novel of his or her choosing that the instructor must approve. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation is required on all papers submitted.

#### **Novels:**

- *Picture Bride*  
By Yoshiko Uchida
- *Night*  
By Elie Weisel
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
By Harper Lee
- *Fallen Angels*  
By Walter Dean Myers

- *The Old Man and The Sea*  
By Ernest Hemingway
- *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*  
By Stephen King

### **Media & Communication (0.5 Credit)**

From banner ads to billboards, newspaper articles, and Facebook feeds, people are constantly sharing ideas. This course looks at the many facets of mass media. Students will learn how the media shapes every aspect of our lives. We examine the role of newspapers, books, magazines, radio, movies, television, and the growing influence of Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

### **Journalism (0.5 Credit)**

This course is designed to prepare you to become a student of journalism and media. The work we do here will equip you with the critical skills you must have to succeed in high school media, college media, and beyond. We will read a variety of journalistic material and do a great deal of news writing. We will also look at journalism from legal, ethical, and historic vantage points. Expect to complete numerous writing activities in a variety of styles including editorial, hard news, feature, review, and more. If you participate actively, you will gain tremendous skills that will serve you for the rest of your life. Individual and group project will also be a part of this class. This course is a project based course and does not include traditional tests, unit level understanding is assessed through unit projects.