

British Literature (12th grade)

Students this year will learn about the development of their language by reading literature from the birthplace of the English language. We look at literature historically by year, with an introduction to English history and the way it affected literature, beginning with the early Anglo-Saxon years and ending with the 20th century.

The major project this year is reading and interpreting a novel by one of England's premier novelists, Jane Austen. After a short review of grammar and a writing unit, students must formulate an argument of literary criticism based on the novel. They will then work out their supporting arguments and proofs from the text to form an outline and a rough draft, and eventually a final draft. Students receive plenty of feedback from conferences each step of the way: thesis, outline, and rough draft. This 1000-1500 word paper is intended to prepare students for the argumentative essays they will be asked to produce in college.

Some more advanced spelling, vocabulary, and word usage are covered in the first semester.

All high school students are required to do quarterly book reports on a book chosen from my book list. The book report requires plot synopsis, analysis of the theme, moral tone, and interest. The purpose of these reports is to teach students to become discerning readers of all literature, secular or otherwise.

UNITS:

1. Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

a. *Beowulf*
Geoffrey Chaucer

b. Folk ballads

c. The prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* by

d. *Morte d'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory

2. Elizabethan

a. Edmund Spenser

b. Christopher Marlowe

c. Sir Walter Raleigh

d. Sir Philip Sidney

e. Thomas Campion

f. William Shakespeare

g. Ben Jonson

3. *Hamlet*

4. Seventeenth Century

a. John Donne

b. Sir John Suckling

c. Richard Lovelace

d. George Herbert

e. John Milton

f. Robert Herrick

g. John Dryden

5. Neoclassic

a. Alexander Pope

b. Jonathan Swift

c. Boswell/Johnson

d. William Blake

e. Richard Brinsley Sheridan

f. Thomas Gray

g. Robert Burns

6. Jane Austen

a. Qualities of good writing

b. Reading novel/worksheets

c. Thesis statement

d. Outline

e. Rough draft

f. Final draft

7. Romantic

a. William Wordsworth

b. Samuel Taylor Coleridge

c. George Gordon, Lord Byron

d. Percy Bysshe Shelley

e. John Keats

8. Victorian

a. Alfred, Lord Tennyson

b. Robert Browning

c. Elizabeth Barrett Browning

d. Gerard Manley Hopkins

e. Thomas Hardy

9. Modern

a. James Joyce

b. W. B. Yeats

c. A. E. Housman

d. T. S. Eliot

e. Dylan Thomas

TEXTS:

Adventures in English Literature (Harcourt Brace)

Hamlet (Bantam)

English Handbook for Christian Schools (BJU Press)