

Course Syllabus for Eighth Grade English

Description: Eighth Grade English will focus heavily on grammar, its usage and principles, throughout the year. Our secondary focus will be on increasing reading comprehension through the study of various short stories and poems by outlining and journaling. Vocabulary and spelling are tested every week with an accumulative study of Greek and Latin word roots. In addition to classroom reading, each student is expected to read and complete an assigned report on a book approved by the teacher each quarter. We will also be continuing a development of public speaking skills through memorizing and performing an assigned poem each quarter.

Goals:

Grammar study will sharpen and expand language ability.

Study of short stories and poems will develop reading comprehension on a more advanced level, with a focus on organization (outlining) and evaluation (journaling).

Study of word roots will broaden and hone language capabilities by going to the source of many different words, not just the ones being studied.

Oral reports and poems will develop confidence in public speaking.

Textbooks: *Grammar and Composition II* (A Beka), *Excursions in Literature* (BJU Press), *English from the Roots Up* [cards] (Literacy Unlimited)

Assignments: Grammar units will include daily homework exercises, with a few scattered quizzes before testing. Literature assignments will be checked by either an assigned outline or journal exercise. Testing will cover class discussion/notes as well as content from the stories. Word Roots will be studied daily three days a week, with a cumulative quiz each Friday. Book Reports will be assigned near the beginning of each quarter. Oral Poems will also be assigned at this time. Starting this year, grammar and reading will not be graded separately: one English grade will appear on the report card to cover both studies.

Poems: "Seeing Off a Friend" by Li Bai, "Opportunity" by Edward Roland Sill, "Rise Up, O Men of God" by William P. Merrill, and "Symbols" by Christina Rossetti

Units:

GRAMMAR UNIT ONE: Capitalization and Punctuation

Capitalizing proper nouns

Capitalizing titles

Other capitalization

Commas

Semicolons and colons

Italics and hyphens

Quotation marks

Apostrophes

Dashes and parentheses

LITERATURE UNIT ONE: Choices

“Weep No More, My Lady”

“The Brothers”

Adaptation of *Ben-Hur*

GRAMMAR UNIT TWO: The Sentence

Kinds of sentences

Subjects vs. predicates

Locating and diagramming subjects and verbs

Compound subjects and verbs

Complements

Fragments and run-ons

LITERATURE UNIT TWO: Friends

“Being Neighborly” from *Little Women*

“The Doll’s House”

“A Most Important Person”

“Thank You, Ma’am”

“After Twenty Years”

“Half a Gift”

GRAMMAR UNIT THREE: Verbs

Action verbs

Linking verbs

Helping verbs

Verbs vs. verbals

Principal parts

Tenses

Active vs. passive voice

Troublesome verbs

LITERATURE UNIT THREE: Viewpoints

“Mama and the Graduation Present”

“Wolves of Fear”

“The Torn Invitation”

A Christmas Carol

GRAMMAR UNIT FOUR: Nouns

Common and proper nouns

Subject-verb agreement

Predicate nominatives

Direct objects

Indirect objects

Objects of prepositions

Appositives

Nouns of direct address

Gerunds and infinitives

Noun clauses

LITERATURE UNIT FOUR: Adventures

“The Banks of the Sacramento”

“You Need to Go Upstairs”

“The Princess and Curdie”

GRAMMAR UNIT FIVE: Pronouns

Pronoun agreement (subject-verb)

Pronoun agreement (antecedents)

Pronoun case: nominative, objective, possessive

Pronoun usage

LITERATURE UNIT FIVE: Discoveries

"The Wild Duck's Nest"

"Shago"

"The Last Lesson"

"You've Got to Learn"

"Hastman"

Selection from *Evidence Not Seen*

GRAMMAR UNIT SIX: Adjectives

Proper adjectives

Adjectives vs. nouns and pronouns

Predicate adjectives

Prepositional phrases as adjectives

Adjective clauses

Placement and punctuation of adjectives

Adjective usage

LITERATURE UNIT SIX: Heroes and Villians

Read the assigned novel as a class, with an emphasis on the conflict of major characters

GRAMMAR UNIT SEVEN: Adverbs

Recognizing and diagramming adverbs

Adverbs vs. adjectives

Adverb phrases

Adverb clauses

Placement of adverbs

Adverb usage

GRAMMAR UNIT EIGHT: Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections

Recognizing prepositions

Preposition usage

Recognizing conjunctions

Conjunction usage

Recognizing interjections

Reviewing the parts of speech

GRAMMAR UNIT NINE: Sentence Structure

Simple and compound sentences

Complex sentences

Compound-complex sentences

Diagramming compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences