

Course Syllabus for Freshman English (General Literature)

Description: Freshman English will include a review of basic grammar principles through the use of the different parts of speech within a sentence. Much of the year will be focused on an introduction to literature through the basic principles of what makes literature great.

Vocabulary and spelling lists are tested bi-weekly. In addition to classroom reading, each student is expected to read and write a report on a book from the approved list each quarter.

Goals:

Grammar review will keep language abilities sharp.

Study of literature on a more advanced level is introduced to develop the ability to evaluate a work for more than content/plot, and to develop discernment in all reading.

Vocabulary and spelling will broaden and hone language capabilities.

Textbooks: *Grammar and Composition III* (A Beka), *Fundamentals of Literature* (BJU Press),
Adventures in Reading (Harcourt Brace)

Assignments: Grammar units will include daily homework exercises, with a few scattered quizzes before testing. Literature assignments will be checked daily by way of a 5-point quiz, given before any discussion has occurred. Testing will cover class discussion/notes. Vocabulary/Spelling lists will be sent home for completion by Thursday, to be quizzed Friday (on a bi-weekly basis). After three lists have been completed, a review test will be given in place of the next scheduled quiz. Additional projects will be assigned within the unit, usually accompanied by a separate handout.

Units:

GRAMMAR UNIT ONE: Verbs

Fragments and Run-ons

Types of Verbs

Transitive vs. Intransitive

Verbals

Troublesome Verbs

Active vs. Passive Voice

LITERATURE UNIT ONE: Conflict, Character

Learn and identify the three basic types of conflict in literature through these stories/poems:

“Miss Hinch,” “The Duel,” “Robin Hood and Little John,” and “The Lion’s Paw”

Learn how the author portrays 4 different types of characters through dialogue, description, and action

“Phaethon,” “Neighbor Rosicky,” “The Revolt of Mother,” “Marjorie Daw,” and “My Last Duchess”

GRAMMAR UNIT TWO: Nouns

Subject-verb Agreement

Predicate Nominatives

Direct and Indirect Objects

Appositives

Gerunds

Infinitives

Noun Clauses

LITERATURE UNIT TWO: Theme, Point of View

Learn to identify both implicit and explicit theme by evaluating the work as a whole through these works:

“The Silver Mine,” “Quality,” “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and “When You Are Old”

Learn and identify the three basic points of view used by narrators of literature in these works:

“The Forty Thieves,” “The Open Window,” “After the Battle,” “The Crime,” and “The Age of Miracles”

GRAMMAR UNIT THREE: Pronouns, Sentences, Basic Punctuation

Pronoun-antecedent Agreement

Pronoun Reference

Adjective Clauses

Adverb Clauses

Sentence Types Based on Structure

Commas

Semicolons and Colons

LITERATURE UNIT THREE: Structure

Learn and identify the seven parts of a plot structure through these works:

“A Bit of String,” “The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet,” “The Gold-Bug”

Learn the different parts and types of poem structures

Identify meter

Identify rhyme scheme

Identify type of rhythm

Identify type of poem

LITERATURE UNIT FOUR: Moral Tone

Learn to evaluate a work to discover moral tone

Answer the four evaluative questions using examples from *Cyrano de Bergerac*

LITERATURE UNIT FIVE: *Great Expectations*

Combine the basic principles of great literature to evaluate a novel

LITERATURE UNIT SIX: *Romeo and Juliet*

Combine the basic principles of great literature to evaluate a play

Memorize and perform a speech from *Romeo and Juliet*

Create and perform a script, “updating” a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*