

Grade 8 Language Arts – MS/Part A

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Throughout this tablet-ready course, students engage in literary analysis and close reading of short stories, poetry, drama, novels, and informational texts. The course focuses on interpretation of literary works, analysis of informational texts, and the development of oral and written communication skills in standard (formal) English. Students read “between the lines” to interpret literature and go beyond the text to discover how the culture in which a work of literature was created contributes to the theme and ideas it conveys. Analysis of the structure and elements of informational texts and media helps students develop the skills needed for academic success and the navigating the world. Students continue to acquire knowledge and skills in grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary. Setting goals, self-monitoring progress, and reflecting on successes and challenges helps students become metacognitive learners. The course includes discussion activities that engage students in the curriculum while creating a sense of community. This course meets Common Core State Standards.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Read, explore, and analyze literary and informational texts
- Evaluate information from different mediums
- Write analytical and narrative pieces
- Conduct research
- Listen critically and speak effectively
- Collaborate and present information
- Participate in discussions
- Use correct English when writing and speaking
- Apply reading comprehension strategies
- Apply strategies to understand difficult vocabulary
- Apply tools like graphic organizers, checklists and rubrics to reading and writing tasks
- Set goals, self-monitor progress, and reflect on progress

PREREQUISITES: Language Arts Grade 7 or equivalent

COURSE LENGTH: Two Semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: No required textbook for this course

REQUIRED MATERIALS LIST

COURSE OUTLINE:

Module 1: Life Stories

- Lesson 1: Life Stories
- Lesson 2: A Test of Courage
- Lesson 3: A New World
- Lesson 4: Expectations
- Lesson 5: Find Your Own Voice
- Lesson 6: A Writer's View
- Lesson 7: Your Memoir's Topic
- Lesson 8: Writing Dialogue
- Lesson 9: Show; Don't Just Tell
- Lesson 10: Polish Your Memoir
- Lesson 11: The Story of a Life
- Lesson 12: Growing Up a Slave
- Lesson 13: The Horrors of Slavery
- Lesson 14: A Lack of Humanity
- Lesson 15: A Turning Point
- Lesson 16: Differing Perspectives
- Lesson 17: Module Review
- Lesson 18: Module Exam

Module 2: Voices and Viewpoints

- Lesson 1: Voices and Viewpoints
- Lesson 2: Defining Oneself
- Lesson 3: Walls: Real and Symbolic
- Lesson 4: Sonnets
- Lesson 5: Poetic Forms
- Lesson 6: Rhetorical Devices
- Lesson 7: Influencing Viewpoints
- Lesson 8: A Powerful Dream
- Lesson 9: Planning a Speech
- Lesson 10: Gather the Evidence
- Lesson 11: Organize and Outline
- Lesson 12: Get Ready to Speak!

- Lesson 13: Deliver Your Speech
- Lesson 14: The Influence of Media
- Lesson 15: Creating a Viewpoint
- Lesson 16: Each of Us Has a Voice
- Lesson 17: Module Review
- Lesson 18: Module Exam

Module 3: Perspectives in History

- Lesson 1: Perspectives in History
- Lesson 2: Multiple Personalities
- Lesson 3: Fear and Uncertainty
- Lesson 4: Family Ties
- Lesson 5: Growing Up
- Lesson 6: New Experiences
- Lesson 7: Danger Breaks In
- Lesson 8: Hope for the Future
- Lesson 9: No Longer a Little Girl
- Lesson 10: Compare and Contrast
- Lesson 11: After the Capture
- Lesson 12: Fleeing Germany
- Lesson 13: War Comes to the U.S.
- Lesson 14: Fear and Prejudice
- Lesson 15: Aspects of World War II
- Lesson 16: Webquest
- Lesson 17: Module Review
- Lesson 18: Module Exam

Module 4: Story Time

- Lesson 1: Story Time
- Lesson 2: Literature Study 1
- Lesson 3: The Courage of Conviction
- Lesson 4: Man versus Nature
- Lesson 5: Different Approaches
- Lesson 6: A Life of Adventure?

- Lesson 7: The Importance of Belief
- Lesson 8: The Writer's Craft
- Lesson 9: Creating Horror
- Lesson 10: Everyone Likes a Lottery
- Lesson 11: Two Ways of Seeing
- Lesson 12: A Difficult Choice
- Lesson 13: Your Own Short Story
- Lesson 14: Details and Dialogue
- Lesson 15: Draft a Story
- Lesson 16: The Final Product
- Lesson 17: Module Review
- Lesson 18: Module Exam

Module 5: The Source of Information

- Lesson 1: The Source of Information
- Lesson 2: Follow the Procedure
- Lesson 3: Choose a Procedure
- Lesson 4: Get it Together
- Lesson 5: Create a Procedure
- Lesson 6: Show and Tell
- Lesson 7: Technical Texts
- Lesson 8: Using Diagrams
- Lesson 9: Manuals
- Lesson 10: Brochures
- Lesson 11: Technical Writing
- Lesson 12: Writing Workshop
- Lesson 13: Expository Texts
- Lesson 14: It's All in How You Say It
- Lesson 15: Business Letter
- Lesson 16: Module Review
- Lesson 17: Module Exam
- Lesson 18: Portfolio

Course Asset Credits