

Course Description

Seventh Grade

English/Literature

Philosophy Statement: The beliefs and practices underlying the teaching of language at Bethesda Christian Academy are guided by current educational research on best practices in literacy and writing. At Bethesda Christian Academy, we believe that Language Arts endeavors to help students find their God-given voice to communicate with clarity, confidence, and commitment. Language Arts will teach students how to speak effectively, write skillfully, listen attentively, and read with discernment in all mandatory and elective courses.

Course Objective: This language arts class is designed to increase your communications skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. Our primary focus in language arts class will be demonstrating the rules of grammar including the ability to express yourself effectively through various mediums of communication. In this class, one can expect to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction text including novels, short stories, and poetry. These writing pieces will model the different writing styles we will be working on ourselves. Writing assignments will include journal writing, essays, critiques, and creative pieces. Vocabulary and spelling will also be an important part of this class. Because we are a community of learners, The students will be instructed on how to use, create and evaluate parts of speech, paragraphs, types of writing and specific words.

Materials/Resources:

- *Writing and Grammar 7* Fourth Edition (BJU Press)
- *Exploring Themes in Literature* Fifth Edition (BJU Press)
- Novel - *The Secret Garden*
- TPT supplemental resources

Time Allotment: 85 minutes per day, 2 days per week

55 minutes once a week

Biblical Integration: John believed that by writing he was able to preserve a testimony of Christ and the Christian faith for future generations. 1 John 5:13 “ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

John 20:30-31 “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name.”

Grammar Course Content

UNIT ONE

Chapter 1: Sentences

Week 1-2

- I can recall the definition of a sentence
- I can classify sentences
- I can write sentences
- I can recall the two main parts of a sentence
- I can label the subject and predicate of a sentence
- I can list coordinating conjunctions
- I can identify compound subjects and predicates
- I can combine sentences
- I can recall the definition of a fragment
- I can identify a comma splice
- I can identify a fused sentence

Chapter 2: Verbs

Weeks 3-5

- I can define a verb
- I can identify action and state of being verbs
- I can craft writing that evidences strong action verbs
- I can define transitive and intransitive verbs
- I can write sentences using transitive and infinitive verbs
- I can list linking verbs
- I can label predicate nouns and adjectives in a sentence
- I can evaluate a false claim using a primary source
- I can give examples of helping verbs
- I can write a sentence using helping verbs
- I can list the principle parts of a verbs
- I can evaluate writing with incorrect verbs
- I can express a verb in three simple tenses
- I can express a verb in present, past perfect and future tenses

- I can express a verb in future perfect tense

Chapter 3: Nouns

Weeks 6-7

- I can compare singular and plural nouns
- I can classify nouns as singular or plural
- I can compare possessive and plural nouns
- I can define count and noncount nouns
- I can define compound, concrete, and abstract nouns
- I can write sentences using various types of nouns
- I can relate imitating God to using craft in the writing process

Chapter 4: Pronouns

Week 8-9

- I can identify pronouns in a sentence
- I can replace an antecedent with an appropriate demonstrative pronoun
- I can list personal pronouns based on person, number, and gender.
- I can classify pronouns
- I can list indefinite pronouns
- I can identify indefinite pronouns
- I can analyze mentor texts for showing rather than telling
- I can evaluate a text for effectiveness of description

Chapter 5: Narrative Writing

Week 10-11

- I can identify elements of narrative writing
- I can analyze craft and point of view in a mentor text on narrative writing.
- I can define setting, conflict, rising action, and resolution in a story plot
- I can draft a narrative
- I can proofread a narrative draft
- I can incorporate revisions from proofreading into a final manuscript
- I can publish a narrative

Chapter 6: Adjectives

Weeks 12-13

- I can identify adjectives in a sentence
- I can label the word an adjective modifies in a sentence
- I can compare forms of adjectives

- I can identify each article article, possessive, and independent possessive in a sentence
- I can identify common and proper adjectives in a sentence
- I can capitalize proper adjectives in a sentence
- I can relate proper and common adjectives to the words they modify in a sentence

Chapter 7: Adverbs

Weeks 14-15

- I can identify adverbs in a sentence
- I can label the word an adverb modifies in a sentence
- I can compare forms of adverbs
- I can identify a modifier as an adjective or adverb based on its function
- I can write a sentence containing an adjective and an adverb
- I can identify double negatives in writing
- I can relate proper motivations for writing to caring for one's neighbor
- I can define rhythm in writing

Chapter 8: Phrases

Weeks 16-17

- I can identify prepositions and prepositional phrases in sentences
- I can analyze a sentence to determine if a word is functioning as a preposition or an adverb
- I can identify adjectival and adverbial phrases in a sentence
- I can create descriptive sentences using prepositional phrases
- I can analyze sentences for misplaced modifiers and correct them
- I can define an appositive and an appositive phrase
- I can identify restrictive and nonrestrictive appositives
- I can create sentences using appositives and appositive phrases for tighter writing
- I can formulate a particular belief using elements of craft

Chapter 9: Informative Writing

Weeks 18-20

- I can identify elements of informative writing
- I can choose a topic for an informational piece

- I can identify characteristics of credible sources
- I can analyze the correct MLA form for citing sources
- I can create a works-cited entry using correct MLA form
- I can contrast paraphrasing and plagiarism
- I can paraphrase the data or conclusions of others
- I can draft an informative piece
- I can revise the informative draft
- I can proofread the informative draft using a checklist
- I can incorporate revisions from proofreading into a final manuscript

Chapter 10: Clauses

Weeks 21-22

- I can distinguish between independent and dependent clauses
- I can distinguish between simple and compound sentences
- I can identify subordinating conjunctions in a sentence
- I can classify sentences as simple, compound, or complex
- I can write a complex sentence
- I can write a compound-complex sentence
- I can analyze a mentor text for variety in sentence types
- I can apply elements of balance to a paragraph

Chapter 11: Verbals

Weeks 23-25

- I can define a verbal
- I can define a participle
- I can define a participial phrase
- I can combine sentences to create participle and participial phrases
- I can expand sentences with participial phrases to strengthen the sentences stylistically
- I can define a gerund and find them in a sentence
- I can define a gerund phrase and find them in a sentence
- I can define an infinitive phrase and find them in a sentence
- I can define a dangling modifier and find them in a sentence
- I can create original sentences illustrating dangling modifiers for classmates to correct

Chapter 12: Subject-Verb Agreement

Weeks 26-27

- I can distinguish between singular/plural verbs and subject
- I can identify the singular and plural forms of the verb be in present and past tense
- I can identify indefinite pronouns
- I can distinguish singular from plural indefinite pronouns
- I can choose the correct singular or plural verb to agree with a compound subject
- I can identify subjects and verbs in sentences with a variety of sentence patterns
- I can analyze paragraph development and unity in a mentor text
- I can formulate biblical world view in orderly writing

Chapter 13: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Week 28

- I can choose personal pronouns that agree with their antecedents in both number and gender
- I can analyze sentences to make indefinite pronouns agree with their antecedents in number and gender based on context
- I can recognize perceived gender bias in pronoun usage in writing
- I can evaluate various audiences regarding particular topics

Chapter 14: Argumentative Writing

Weeks 29-31

- I can identify characteristics of argumentative writing
- I can formulate an argumentative thesis on a given topic
- I can identify the counterargument
- I can choose a topic for an argumentative piece
- I can formulate a thesis for my argumentative piece
- I can create a list of reasons to support an argument
- I can find credible sources to support an argument
- I can prepare notes using MLA form
- I can incorporate quotations
- I can draft an argumentative piece
- I can revise the argumentative draft
- I can proofread the argumentative draft using a checklist
- I can incorporate revisions from proofreading

Chapter 15: Pronoun Usage

Weeks 32-33

- I can use the subjective case for pronouns functioning as subjects or as predicate nouns
- I can use possessive pronoun/contraction pairs correctly

- I can use person pronoun courtesy correctly
- I can use reflexive and intensive pronouns correctly
- I can revise sentence to eliminate unclear pronoun reference
- I can analyze how different perspectives affect writing
- I can avoid hypercorrection in pronoun choice.
- I can write original sentences using possessive personal pronouns and contraction homonym pairs correctly

Chapter 16:Punctuation

Weeks 34-36

- I can choose the correct end mark for a sentence
- I can use periods correctly other than for end marks
- I can use a comma to separate three or more items in a series
- I can combine sentences using commas correctly
- I can use a comma to separate a direct quotation
- I can use commas with quotations, dates, and addresses. I can use commas correctly in letters
- I can combine sentences using a comma and a conjunction, semicolon, or a colon
- I can italicize or underline words and letters correctly
- I can use an apostrophe and hyphen correctly
- I can use quotation marks correctly
- I can analyze a mentor text's effective use of punctuation for style, tone, and clarity
- I can create a correctly punctuated paragraph
- I can apply biblical principles to texting or social media

Chapter 17: Capitalization

Weeks 37-38

- I can capitalize proper nouns naming people and place
- I can identify capitalization errors
- I can differentiate between capitalization errors and proper capitalization of title, calendar items, and historical terms
- I can define figurative language, metaphor, and simile
- I can avoid capitalizing common nouns

Chapter 18: Writing Project: Creating an Article

Weeks 39-40

- I can identify the purpose and audience of a magazine article

- I can assume at least one role within the team and work to create a magazine article
- I can choose a topic for the magazine article after investigating various ideas for feasibility
- I can create a layout and design for the article
- I can draft the article
- I can collaborate to revise and edit the article
- I can proofread and copyedit the article
- I can execute final check and publish the article
- I can submit final project and share published article

Literature Course Content

Exploring Themes in Literature Fifth Edition (BJU Press)

Weeks 2-30

- I can determine exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution by reading and analyzing various short stories.
- I can compare and contrast characters from various short stories.
- I can analyze characterization, theme, and determine the moral and spiritual issues relating to the stories.
- I can define and identify various types of figurative language in various short stories.
- I can compose and create a short story with a well-developed plot.
- I can apply a reader's craft to comprehend a text related to the theme of relationships.
- I can analyze a text for its purpose, structure, theme, and literary elements.
- I can compare and contrast texts in various genres that present similar themes and topics.
- I can collaborate with peers to develop responses to texts.
- I can prepare and give a presentation, drawing on technology skills.
- I can evaluate a text's theme based on biblical teaching about relationships.
- I can write an explanatory response to the unit question based on biblical teaching about relationships.
- I can learn an array of literary terms and elements and identify them in various works of literature.

Novel Study

Weeks 32-39

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett and TPT Resource

- I can analyze characterization, theme, and literary elements while reading *The Secret Garden*.
- I can determine the plot in the selected novel.
- I can complete chapter comprehension questions and vocabulary exercises in a Google Classroom Interactive Notebook.
- I can trace Mary's transformation from the beginning of the novel to the end.
- I can create and present a secret garden using various cross-curricular (science, geography and math) concepts.

Areas to Be Evaluated:

- Class participation, homework, test, quizzes
- Individual and group projects
- Usage in writing

Additional Activities:

- Projects will be assigned for the various parts of speech.
- Writing assignments will promote narrative, descriptive and evaluative writing.