

8th Grade Language Arts Course Syllabus

Course Name: MJ Language Arts 3 v22

Description: Through reading, writing, and rhetoric, students in the MJ Language Arts 3 course examine how authors fine-tune and utilize their craft to create texts with purpose. Students continue to develop the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in high school, college, career, and beyond. Students evaluate and analyze voice, purpose, diction, syntax, and rhetoric in historical speeches, informational texts, and classic and contemporary literature through guided readings, interactive practice, and formal assessments. They also refine their narrative, informational, and argumentative writing skills through the repeated practice of planning, drafting, revising, and editing their written work.

Estimated Completion Time: 2 segments / 32–36 weeks.

Major Topics and Concepts

Segment 1

Reading Comprehension/Informational & Expository Writing

- Explaining author's purpose through diction and syntax
- Examining the ways literary elements interact
- Analyzing plot structure
- Tracking the development of two or more themes in literature
- Determining point of view and perspective
- Identifying symbolism in literary texts
- Uncovering word meanings through context clues
- Determining the central idea of a text
- Writing effective summaries
- Utilizing parallel structure in writing
- Examining informational text structures and features
- Locating credible sources based on bias, origin, and purpose
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Citing sources correctly
- Formatting the Works Cited page
- Using signal phrases and transitions in academic writing
- Writing effective informational introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions
- Formulating thesis statements for academic writing
- Using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary
- Integrating interesting grammar to enhance voice
- Editing and revising with purpose
- Connecting the use of figurative language devices to a text's meaning
- Identifying and correcting logical fallacies
- Using semicolons effectively

- Understanding active and passive voice
- Determining word meaning through affixes and root words

Segment 1 Advanced

- Analyzing sound devices and symbolism in poetry
- Researching and writing about an American folktale
- Paraphrasing rigorous literary texts
- Connecting historical context and setting to literary texts

Segment 2

Reading Comprehension/Argumentative Writing/Narrative Writing

- Analyzing how rhetorical appeals and devices support an argument
- Planning and organizing an effective argument
- Identifying elements of an effective claim, counterclaim, and rebuttal
- Effectively supporting a claim with well-researched evidence
- Using elaborative details to communicate and clarify knowledge to an audience
- Analyzing how a poem's use of structure and poetic devices affect the meaning
- Comparing archetypes across literature
- Identifying various types of narratives
- Clarifying point of view and perspective
- Tracking the development of conflict and theme
- Revising for parallel structure
- Using digital media to create a novel review
- Planning a narrative based on a plot archetype
- Using narrative techniques to enhance creative writing

Segment 2 Advanced

- Creating a persuasive presentation using rhetorical appeals and devices
- Composing a narrative poem using poetic devices
- Delivering a student-written speech based on a fictional character's perspective

Required Materials

All students read ONE of the following novels in Segment 2:

- *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell
- *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells
- *Untwine* by Edwidge Danticat

Course Grading

Besides engaging students in challenging curriculum, the course guides students to reflect on their learning and evaluate their progress through a variety of assessments. Assessments can be in the form of practice lessons, multiple-choice questions, writing assignments, projects, research papers, oral assessments, and discussions. This course will use the state-approved grading scale. Each course contains a mandatory final exam or culminating project that will be weighted at 20% of the student's overall grade. ***

***Proctored exams can be requested by FLVS at any time and for any reason in an effort to ensure academic integrity. When taking the exam to assess a student's integrity, the student must pass the exam with at least a 59.5% in order to earn credit for the course.

Communication Policy

To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly. Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week. To measure learning, students complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, projects, discussion-based assessments, and discussions. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers; the minimum requirement is monthly. When teachers, students, and parents work together, students are successful.