

Syllabus: Literature 4

Course Description

Intended for students at a fourth grade reading level, students will read a variety of great books. During the school year they will read on their own, as well as orally in class, being taught to use punctuation as clues. Memory work, art projects, letter writing, vocabulary skills and more will be used to add excitement to the class. Comprehension skills will be emphasized through both oral and written answers. Common literary techniques will be taught and students will be able to identify them in all the different books. Students will learn to apply a Christian worldview as they examine character qualities and experiences in these enthralling works. Most importantly, they will fall in love with reading! Recommended for grade 4. Homework will average 2 - 3 hours per week, depending on reading speed.

Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

- Use expression and inflection in oral reading.
- Read with good phrasing by paying attention to punctuation clues.
- Read accurately with fluency and pace.
- Pay attention to clarity and volume when oral reading.
- Identify and define important literary terms.
- Identify the elements of a story.
- Recognize and follow the narrative structure.
- Answer comprehension questions relating to the chapters read in complete sentences.
- Define vocabulary words in literature.
- Recite various poems from memory

Attendance and Participation

Attendance, while not graded in this course, will nevertheless be recorded by the students' teacher, as students are required to attend all scheduled class sessions and actively participate. It is expected that students will view archives of any missed classes as they are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments when a class must be missed.

Students will receive quarterly grades for Participation. A percentage of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*, which typically includes raising their hands, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box to contribute to the academic conversation. A grading rubric, which contains the percentage attributed to Relevant Class Participation for this course, is located on the course page.

Assignments and Assessments

Assignments will be posted weekly on the course page. Parents are responsible for making sure that the student completes all reading, vocabulary, projects, and

written comprehension assignments on time.

Reading: Students will need to keep up with reading assignments in order to participate in class discussions. Every student is expected to read the assigned books both at home and orally in class. Developing reading skills is critical so audiobooks should not be used as a *substitute* for reading the book, though we welcome audiobooks being used as a supplement. Students with learning disabilities can apply for Educational Accommodations to use an audiobook but should always follow along in the book. All students should be prepared to read orally in class unless their Educational Accommodation excuses them from this activity.

Oral Reading: Oral reading will be an integral part of each class. In this non-stressful environment we will increase our ability to read with fluency, expression, enunciation, projection, and observance of punctuation. Assessments will be ongoing throughout each semester.

Vocabulary: We will be learning vocabulary as we go along. Please keep a Vocabulary Notebook and a good dictionary nearby.

Journals: Students will be asked to write short journal entries throughout the year. These entries will be shared during class time and will be counted as part of the participation grade.

Comprehension Questions: Each semester four sets of comprehension questions will be collected and graded. Students are expected to write their answers in complete sentences while restating part of the questions in their answer on all assignments.

Projects: Two graded projects will be given per semester. The projects will usually be of a creative, hands-on nature. Descriptions and due dates are given on the home page.

All assignments are due by 11:55pm ET on the due date. In lieu of a mid-term test, students will submit a book report during mid-term test week at the end of the first semester. In lieu of a final test, students will submit an oral reading presentation during class in the last week of the second semester.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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| • Relevant Class Participation | 20% |
| • Homework | 20% |
| • Quizzes | 25% |
| • Projects | 20% |
| • Oral Reading | 15% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades.

100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. This policy also applies to formal labs in applicable courses. Retakes will be graded as though the student *could* receive a 100%. Assuming the student then scores a grade of 70% or greater on the retake, he will be given a 70%. If the student again fails the assessment, the greater of the two grades (attempts) will be used in the calculation of a final grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student’s teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials, and that they be ordered timely so as to have no interruption in a student's progress.

Literature 4 Course Kit (003508)

- Tom Sawyer (435041)
- Tom Sawyer Comp Guide (000733)
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (435180)
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Comp Guide (000726)
- Dangerous Journey (630030)
- Dangerous Journey Comp Guide (630030)
- The Hobbit (290020)
- The Hobbit Comp Guide (000760)
- Mary Poppins (250481)
- Mary Poppins Comp Guide (000758)
- 21 Balloons (435930)
- 21 Balloons Comp Guide (000768)
- Faerie Gold (460300)
- Leepike Ridge (490595)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on the course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.