

Academic Year 2008-2009

Language Arts Instructor: Ken Trani

Course Philosophy: This course is designed to explore all facets of the English language, including grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition. Grammar will focus primarily on a solid foundation of parts of speech and parts of the sentence. Literature will cover short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. In composition, students will learn effective sentence writing, paragraph structure, and multi-paragraph essays. Vocabulary exercises will help students learn not only new words but their correct usage, derivations, and the use of diacritical marks in figuring out pronunciation.

Texts: *Prentice-Hall Writing and Grammar*
Prentice-Hall Literature
Vocabulary for Achievement

Materials Needed: Notebook and paper
Writing materials
Folder for handouts and Reading Log

Grading: Tests: 30%
Grammar Quizzes: 15%
Vocabulary Quizzes: 15%
Compositions: 20%
Reading Workshop: 20%

Grading Scale: 97 to 100 A+ 93 to 96 A 90 to 92 A-
87 to 89 B+ 83 to 86 B 80 to 82 B-
77 to 79 C+ 73 to 76 C 70 to 72 C-
67 to 69 D+ 63 to 66 D 60 to 62 D-
0 to 59 F

Class Expectations: Be prepared (homework completed, correct book, notebook, and writing materials)
Be on time
Participate in class
Cheating and plagiarism (to be discussed at the beginning of the year) unacceptable
Respect for others and yourself through actions and words
No gum chewing or eating allowed in the classroom; water may be drunk

Homework: 1) Except for compositions and other special assignments, homework is not generally collected, but it is checked on a daily basis.

2) Reading assignments must be done as carefully as written ones, and from time to time, reading checks will be given, unannounced, to check for understanding.

3) All graded assignments must be passed in on the due date; school policy is to penalize one letter grade for each day late, unless prior arrangements have been made well before the due date.

4) All handwritten work must be done neatly either in pencil or in blue or black ink. Assignments required to be typed will be announced ahead of time.

Reading Workshop: Each week during the hour-long class, students are expected to bring a book to class for our D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) program. Students are responsible for their own books, which must be of a grade-appropriate level. (Magazines are not allowed.) Upon completing a book, each student will complete a Story Map that outlines the important literary aspects of that work. Completed Story Maps are to be kept in a personal folder. Students will also record the number of pages they have read on a Reading Log that is also kept in the folder. There are a required number of pages that must be read to attain various grades for Reading Workshop. More information about this will be discussed in class.

Neatness: Not only is all work required to be neat, but so is the desk at which each student sits. Trash must be placed in the trash barrel, not in the desk. Also, desks are not personal lockers; no materials may be stored in the desks overnight, unless students are specifically instructed to do so.

Tentative Outline

This tentative outline lists major units that will be covered in class. Vocabulary, composition, essays, and tests will be added regularly and announced in advance. D.E.A.R. will be offered during the hour-long block, and classes will frequently begin with on-the-board sentence corrections, quick writes, and journal writing.

Trimester 1

Week 1 Introduction; short stories

Week 2 Short stories; grammar (nouns)

Week 3 Short stories; grammar (nouns/pronouns)

Week 4 Short stories; grammar (pronouns)

Week 5 Grammar test; short story test; poetry

Week 6 Grammar (verbs)

Week 7 Novel (*A Wrinkle in Time*); grammar (verbs)

Week 8 Novel (*A Wrinkle in Time*); grammar test

Week 9 Novel (*A Wrinkle in Time*); poetry; grammar (adjectives)

Week 10 Short story test; personal narrative

Week 11 Grammar (adjectives); personal narrative

Week 12 Review; final

Trimester 2

Week 1 Grammar (adverbs); literature
Week 2 Grammar (adverbs); drama
Week 3 Grammar (prepositions); drama
Week 4 Grammar (review and test); drama; tribute essay
Week 5 Tribute essay; poetry
Week 6 Grammar (conjunctions and interjections); poetry
Week 7 Literature (myths, fables, and folk tales)
Week 8 Literature (myths, fables, and folk tales); project
Week 9 Grammar (parts of the sentence); novel (*The Giver*)
Week 10 Grammar (parts of the sentence); novel (*The Giver*)
Week 11 Novel (*The Giver*); persuasive essay; grammar review
Week 12 Grammar test; persuasive essay

Trimester 3

Week 1 Short stories; grammar (fragments and run-ons)
Week 2 Short stories; grammar (punctuation)
Week 3 Short stories; grammar (capitalization)
Week 4 Novel (*The Westing Game*); poetry; poetry project
Week 5 Novel (*The Westing Game*); poetry; poetry project
Week 6 Novel (*The Westing Game*); poetry; poetry project
Week 7 Grammar (subject/verb agreement)
Week 8 Literature (non-fiction); grammar (agreement)
Week 9 Literature (non-fiction); grammar (effective sentences)
Week 10 Literature (non-fiction); grammar (effective paragraphs)
Week 11 Review
Week 12 Review; final

Course Outline

This outline does not represent a chronological listing but rather the areas of focus within each unit of study.

I. Vocabulary

Lesson format

1. Writing words correctly
2. Using words correctly
3. Choosing the best word
4. Using different forms of words
5. Reading comprehension

II. Grammar

A. Parts of speech

1. Nouns

a. Common

- b. Proper
- c. Collective
- d. Compound
- 2. Pronouns
 - a. Personal
 - b. Demonstrative
 - c. Interrogative
 - d. Indefinite
- 3. Verbs
 - a. Action
 - b. Linking
- 4. Adjectives
- 5. Adverbs
- 6. Prepositions
- 7. Conjunctions
 - a. Correlative
 - b. Coordinating
- 8. Interjections
- B. Parts of the Sentence
 - 1. Subject
 - 2. Predicate
 - 3. Complements
 - a. Direct object
 - b. Indirect object
 - c. Predicate nominative
 - d. Predicate adjective
- C. Phrases and clauses
- D. Sentence types
 - 1. Declarative
 - 2. Interrogative
 - 3. Imperative
 - 4. Exclamatory
- E. Agreement
 - 1. Subject/verb
 - 2. Pronoun/antecedent
- F. Punctuation
- G. Capitalization

III. Literature

- A. Major literary elements
 - 1. Setting
 - 2. Theme
 - 3. Characterization
 - 4. Conflict
 - 5. Plot

6. Language

B. Types of literature

1. Short story

2. Poetry

3. Novel

a. *A Winkle in Time*, Madeleine L'Engle

b. *The Giver*, Lois Lowry

c. *The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin

4. Drama

IV. Composition

A. Personal narrative

B. Tribute essay

C. Persuasive essay

D. Journal writing