

### Course Description:

In this course, students read and analyze literary and informational texts. These texts will come from a number of genres and sources, including short stories, novels, myths, poems, magazine articles, and autobiographies. Through the presentation of these types of reading selections, the course demonstrates ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, central idea, and figurative language.

Students also read the novel *The Call of the Wild* and short stories such as "The Lottery," "A Sound of Thunder," and "The Tell-Tale Heart." The informational texts examine topics including the Yukon, the Klondike Gold Rush, dog sledding, and wolves. In addition, students peruse numerous infographics and videos that build on the instruction.

As students read the selections in the course, they practice ways to use supporting evidence, identify central ideas, make inferences, analyze word choice, and identify figurative and connotative language in both literary and informational texts. In addition, students learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including sentence structures, ellipses, dashes, and commas. Course content also includes context clues to determine word meaning as well as Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

Students complete a narrative writing project. They learn the elements of a fictional narrative and use that information to plan, write, revise, and edit their own fictional narrative.

Through the lessons provided in this course, students master techniques that help them achieve a deeper appreciation of literary and informational texts.

**Prerequisites:** English 7A & 7B or equivalent 7th-Grade English Language Arts

### Course Objectives:

- Identify and analyze implicit and explicit evidence in texts to make inferences.
- Describe and analyze narrative elements and structures in literary text.
- Describe and make connections between key individuals, ideas, and events in texts.
- Identify and describe themes and central ideas in texts.
- Identify evidence that strongly supports what a literary text says explicitly and implicitly.
- Make inferences about a literary text.
- Assess evidence to determine what most strongly supports key ideas and inferences made in literary text.
- Cite textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of literary text.
- Compare and contrast characters, themes, and events in modern fiction to those in myths and traditional stories.
- Recognize irony, suspense, and humor in texts.
- Determine perspective in texts.
- Determine how a text's structure contributes to its meaning and style.
- Identify and interpret figurative, connotative, and technical meanings in texts.
- Identify and define common Greek and Latin roots and affixes to determine the meaning of words.
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Show mastery of the conventions of standard English.
- Identify words that are spelled incorrectly in the context of text or writing.
- Spell correctly
- Demonstrate independent and proficient comprehension of literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the 6-8 text complexity band.

- Describe effective strategies for referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
- Describe appropriate rules for collegial discussions.
- Describe strategies for appropriate questions that connect the ideas of several speakers.
- Describe strategies for acknowledging new information expressed by others.
- Describe strategies for qualifying or justifying one's own views.
- Draw evidence from informational text to support analysis.
- Draw evidence from informational text to support research.
- Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
- Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
- Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.
- Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify one's own views in light of the evidence presented.
- Complete a writing project in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.
- Gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
- Define common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots.
- Identify common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots in unknown words.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.

### Required Materials:

All Graphic Organizers can be found in the Graphic Organizer Library, as well as each specific activity plan.

\*Additional materials are listed in the course.

### Course Overview:

- This course creates an engaging learning experience that provides students with instruction, videos and animations and the opportunity to further explore and practice course concepts with selected readings, workbook exercises critical thinking activities, discussion board, checkpoints, writing projects and unit exams.