

### Course Description:

In this course, you will focus on learning reading skills based on literary texts. The texts come from a number of genres and include a novel, excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, and plays. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, characters, plot, poetic techniques, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. You will read the entire novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in almost every lesson throughout the course. You will read excerpts from the novels *Little Women* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and stories and plays about challenging situations, getting caught doing something wrong, finding something unexpected, and why the crocodile has a wide mouth. Additionally, you will read poems from famous poets, such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg, to name a few. You will also watch several videos of famous poems being read aloud.

As you read the novels, short stories, poems, and plays in this course, you will practice ways to identify central ideas and themes; make inferences; analyze word choice; identify figurative and connotative language; and compare and contrast poems, poems to stories, poems to video versions. In addition, you will learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including conjunctive adverbs, predicate adjectives, various types of pronouns, active and passive voice, and semicolons and colons. You will also learn 20 new vocabulary words in each of the first five units of the course.

In addition, you will learn the elements of narrative writing so that you can plan, create, write, revise, and edit your own personal narrative. You will also learn about different forms of poetry and their characteristics, and different poetic techniques in order to write several types of poems. Through the lessons provided in this course, you will master techniques that help you achieve a deeper appreciation of literary texts and narrative and poetry writing.

### Course Objectives:

- Describe and analyze how the organization of plot elements and characterization in literary texts causes characters to act, respond, or change.
- Identify, analyze, and objectively summarize themes and central ideas in literary texts.
- Identify and analyze how an author develops point of view and perspective in literary texts.
- Describe and analyze how sentences, chapters, scenes, or stanzas affect the structure in literary text.
- Identify and analyze implicit and explicit evidence in literary texts to make inferences.
- Analyze the meaning and impact of figurative and connotative word choices in literary texts.
- Compare and contrast topics, themes, ideas, and experiences in stories, poems, and videos.
- Use pronouns correctly when writing sentences, ensuring pronouns are in the proper case and correcting vague uses and inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
- Participate in discussion, following discussion rules and supporting your ideas with evidence.
- Complete writing activities and projects in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Use knowledge of writing ideas, concepts, and strategies to write a personal narrative and various forms of poetry.
- Read and interpret narrative texts and literary fiction, including stories, dramas, and poems.
- Identify and distinguish between the meanings of general academic and domain-specific vocabulary words and phrases.

### Required Materials:

- word-processing software
- internet browser

\*Additional materials are listed in the course.

### Course Overview:

Each unit begins with an introduction, which includes a brief description of the content and intended learning outcomes. Following the introduction are these standard activities, which may or may not be present in each lesson:

Vocabulary Words – Includes parts of speech, definitions, synonyms, related words, and etymology; contains workbook questions; is a part of the Language Skill.

Language Skill Instruction – Includes instruction in vocabulary and language skills; contains workbook questions; is a part of the Language Skill.

Reading Selections – Includes annotated reading selections, videos and audio files; is part of the Reading Skill. Reading Skill Instruction – Includes instruction in reading skills; contains workbook questions; is part of the Reading Skill.

Writing Skill Instruction and Activity – Includes instruction in writing skills; contains workbook questions; contains activities including writing projects, which are assessments graded by the instructor and which require you to apply your knowledge and writing capabilities to demonstrate mastery of the lesson content; includes a personal narrative, completed in Units 2 and 3; and writing a poem, completed in Units 4 and 5.

Checkpoint – Uses 15 questions to assess mastery of lesson objectives; is a graded activity; may be taken up to three times.

Discussion Board – Is an academic discussion board; gives chances to share personal thoughts and ideas about the topics and ideas covered in each lesson.

Exam Prep – Presents a summary and review of the skills covered in the unit.

In the last lesson of each unit, the Checkpoint activity is replaced with a comprehensive assessment:

Unit Exams – At the end of the unit is an exam that will assess mastery of unit objectives. You may take the Unit Exam only once.

End-of-Course Writing Assessment – This exam is in the next-to-last lesson and tests how well you have learned the writing skills presented in the course. You may take the End-of-Course Writing Assessment only once.

Final Exam – This exam is in the last lesson and consists of 50 questions that test you on the concepts and information learned in the course. You may take the Final Exam only once

