

## Language Arts 7/8 – A

### SCOPE OF COURSE

English Language Arts – 7/8 A&B is designed to be used by students in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The first semester (A) develops and strengthens reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and presenting skills, through the study of myths and legends, fables and fairy tales, poetry and life lessons, drama, and writing attitude and composition. The course is geared toward the intermediate English Language learner with basic English skills.

### SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

#### UNIT 1 – Myths and Legends

- Review of alphabet, alphabetical order
- Resources: dictionary, thesaurus
- Reading myths from around the world
- Writing a myth
- Literary elements: theme, characters
- Parts of speech: noun, pronoun, adjective
- Grammar: plural and possessive nouns
- Parts of a story
- Writing process: prewriting, drafting, proofreading, proofreader’s marks, publishing
- Prewriting: brainstorming
- Reading legends from around the world
- Writing a legend
- Spelling rules

#### UNIT 2 – Fables and Fairy Tales

- Reading fables from around the world
- Literary elements: moral
- Reading strategies
- Parts of speech: verbs, adverbs, prepositions, prefix, suffix, root words
- Cause and effect
- Grammar: verb tense
- Capitalization
- Punctuation: commas, quotation marks
- Reading fairy tales
- Compare two fairy tales
- Spelling rules

#### UNIT 3 – Poetry and Life Lessons

- Reading poems for understanding, enjoyment, and personal response
- Literary elements of poetry: rhyme, rhythm, meter, tone, mood, repetition, figurative language
- Explore multiple formats for poetry: haiku, clerihew, free verse, limerick, sonnet
- Poetic devices
- Grammar: synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, contractions
- Punctuation: apostrophe
- Life of William Shakespeare
- Life lessons: alcohol and drugs
- Spelling rules

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### SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

#### UNIT 4 – Drama

- Reading a play for understanding, enjoyment, and personal response
- Aristotle's 6 elements of drama: characters, plot, theme, music/rhythm, spectacle, dialogue
- Prediction and inference
- Genre and sub-genre
- Punctuation: quotation marks
- Literary devices: soliloquy
- Perform a scene from a play for an audience
- Reading strategies
- Stage directions
- Audience
- Write a book report
- Spelling rules

#### UNIT 5 – Writing Attitude and Composition

- Write an essay
- Write a short story
- Learn to paragraph in essays
- Learn to paragraph in stories
- Components of a paragraph
- Components of sentences
- Types of sentences: declarative, exclamatory, interrogative, and imperative
- Types of sentence errors: fragments and run-ons
- Punctuation: period, question mark, exclamation point
- Grammar: subject-verb agreement, conjunctions
- Writing process: pre-writing, drafting, proofreading, proofreader's marks, publishing
- Spelling rules