

Academic Literature: G7-G8

Course Description

In this literature and writing course, students will gain the fundamentals of reading and writing with a literary focus through a wide array of novels, short stories, and poetry on the theme of **loyalty** and **friendship**. The class will dive into the key literary and stylistic devices necessary for higher-level analysis of literature and texts and students will apply their knowledge and understanding through academic writing, preparing them for the future rigors of high-school classes and AP/IB exams.

Overview

Each class will cover the following elements:

Vocabulary

Grammar and/or **Literary Concept** (sentence types, subject-verb agreement; figurative language, conflict)

In-class **Writing** related to material, theme, quotes, characterization, etc

Discussion and **Analysis** of homework and in-class writing, reading content

Homework - writing homework related to discussion, reading

Reading Materials and Skills

Novels

theme analysis

literary devices

Characterization

symbolism and motifs

Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck

Orbiting Jupiter Gary D. Schmidt

Short Stories

Theme

point of view

narrative structure

figurative language

A Retrieved Reformation O. Henry

A&P John Updike

The Scarlet Ibis James Hurst

and more...

Poetry

poetic structure

poetic devices

figurative language

tone/mood

Mending Wall Robert Frost

A Poison Tree William Blake

We Wear the Mouse Paul Laurence Dunbar

and more..

Writing Types and Skills

Diverse types of writing

literary analysis

argumentative

compare/contrast

creative/narrative/descriptive

Writing skills

thesis construction and outlining

essay structure/organization/cohesion

extracting evidence

essay editing and revision

In addition to in-class writing and written homework assignments, students will complete each novel unit with a **final writing assignment** to synthesize their reading and writing knowledge gained throughout that unit.

Assessments and Feedback

Vocabulary assessments occur on a weekly basis.

Writing assignments and in-class writings will be marked with general remarks and feedback.

Individual student feedback will be given to parents at the middle and end of the term.

In-depth comments and feedback will be given back to students for all major writing assignments and projects.

Academic Literature G8

	Lessons
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Short Story: Exploring Characterization and Symbolism</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Reading for theme and message; analyzing characters and symbolism <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> Figurative Language, Character Analysis <i>Writing:</i> <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore theme of friendship and loyalty through literary analysis - Analyze figurative language story - Learn basics of character analysis
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Short Story: Exploring Foreshadowing and Irony</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Reading for theme and message; analyzing mood, foreshadowing, and irony <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> Figurative Language, Character Analysis <i>Writing: Character analysis essay</i> <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze mood and foreshadowing - Practice identifying and writing with the three types of irony
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i> & Theme Exploration</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Understanding Theme and Making Predictions <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> Parts of Speech, Trimming Prepositional Phrases <i>Writing: Thematic Opinion Writing</i> <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss/Foreshadow themes in relation to the opening chapters of the novel - Figurative Language Quiz
4	<p style="text-align: center;">POV and Structure in <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i></p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyze structure and impact of POV on plot development <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> POV, Trimming Sentences, Subject-Verb Agreement <i>Writing: Literary Analysis Paragraph on the role POV/structure on story</i> <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss themes of identity and self-discovery - SVA multiple choice practice
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Characterization in <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i></p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyzing Character Development and Motivations <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> Imagery, Sentence Type - Simple, Compound, Complex <i>Writing: Draft and Organize analytical paragraphs with textual evidence</i> <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore character traits and motivations - Review simple and compound sentences.
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Conflict and Identity in <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i></p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Identifying Types of Conflict and Their Role in Identity Formation <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> Conflict, Punctuation <i>Writing:</i> <i>Other:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and analyze conflicts in the story - Write clear topic sentences - Practice constructing complex sentences.

7	<p style="text-align: center;">Motifs and Symbolism in <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i></p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyzing Motifs and Symbols that reveal theme/message <i>Literature/Grammar Concept:</i> Symbols, Motifs, Punctuation in Quotes <i>Writing:</i> <i>Other:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the setting and its impact on the story - Find strong evidence - Practice incorporating quotes into writing with correct punctuations - Grammar Quiz #1
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Final Review of <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i></p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyzing Theme and Symbolism <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Writing Introduction and Conclusions, Parts of Speech <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the themes and symbolism in the novel - Write introduction and conclusions for essays - Final Test - Final Project
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Poetry: Poetic Devices and Thematic Analysis</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Novel Comprehension and Reflection <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Revising Analytical Writing, Concise/Clear/Consistent Writing <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect on the novel's impact on identity - Revise and finalize analytical paragraphs - Practice verb tense consistency - Poetry Analysis Essay
10	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to <i>Of Mice and Men</i> and Theme Exploration</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Understanding Historical Context and Its Impact on Identity <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Crafting a Research Question, Reliable Sources, Subject-Verb Agreement (review) <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the historical context of identity - Formulate research questions - Practice subject-verb agreement.
11	<p style="text-align: center;">Historical Context and Setting in <i>Of Mice and Me</i></p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyzing Evidence in Historical Texts <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Writing an Informative Essay, Fragments and Run-ons <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze supporting details in historical articles - Write an informative essay - Practice identifying and revising fragments/run-ons
12	<p style="text-align: center;">Synthesizing Information</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Synthesizing Information from Multiple Sources <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Revising and Finalizing, Parallel Structure <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesize information from historical articles and <i>The Outsiders</i> - Practice using parallel structure - Revise and finalize writing - Grammar quiz

13	<p style="text-align: center;">Short Story: Identity and Self-Discovery Through Narrative Writing</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Reviewing and Understanding Theme of Identity and Self-Discovery <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Narrative Writing Structure, Imagery, Show-not-tell <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore themes of identity and self-discovery in short stories. - Write a narrative piece where a character embarks on a journey of self-discovery. - Practice using show-not-tell technique and imagery to enhance narrative
14	<p style="text-align: center;">Character and Conflict in Short Stories</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyzing Character and Conflict in Short Stories <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Crafting Character Motivation and Conflict, Adjectives and Adverbs (review) <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze character conflicts in short stories. - Write a narrative that focuses on developing a central conflict for a character. - Practice using adjectives and adverbs to vividly describe the conflict and character reactions.
15	<p style="text-align: center;">Setting and Its Influence on Identity: Creating Immersive Narratives</p> <p><i>Reading Skill:</i> Analyzing the Role of Setting in Character Development <i>Writing/Grammar Skill:</i> Descriptive Narrative Writing, Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases <i>Activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine how the setting influences characters' identities in short stories. - Continue the narrative, emphasizing the role of setting in shaping a character's journey. - Practice using prepositions and prepositional phrases to create a detailed and immersive setting. - Finalize writing - Writing structure and skills quiz