

# Middle School Creative Writing

LAN-651

2022 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023 Modified 04/22/2022

## Course Description

Creative Writing is a semester long course that explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking students will learn to become better readers, writers, and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, family storytelling, fairy tales, fantasies, short stories, and journals.

## Rationale

The Middle School Creative Writing course offers students an examination of the different genres of writing, the five elements that go into story developments, and the importance of keeping a journal. The skills taught in this course will not only help students to become better creative writers, but it will develop the skills that will help them in other courses as well.

### Prerequisite

None

## Measurable Learning Outcomes

- A. The student will accurately identify the five elements of a story: plot, setting, characters, theme, and conflict.
- B. The student will choose and develop strategies for various writing genres.
- C. The student will utilize elements of style, including word choice and sentence variation.
- D. The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure.
- E. The student will engage in informal and formal writing assignments.
- F. The student will create a plot line and identify the parts of a plot.
- G. The student will create and analyze characters.
- H. The student will create and recognize the setting in a story.

## Course Resources

See LUOA's [Systems Requirements](#) for computer specifications necessary to operate LUOA curriculum. Also view [Digital Literacy Requirements](#) for LUOA's expectation of users' digital literacy.

Note: Embedded YouTube videos may be utilized to supplement LUOA curriculum. YouTube videos are the property of the respective content creator, licensed to YouTube for distribution and user access. As a non-profit educational institution, LUOA is able to use YouTube video content under the YouTube Terms of Service. For additional information on copyright, please contact the [Jerry Falwell Library](#).

## Materials Required for Purchase

The following materials are required in this course:

- Lewis, S. *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 0064404990
- Students may acquire books through a library or All are available at Amazon.com in print or Kindle editions.

## Scripture Attribution

- Grades K-5: All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of [Zondervan](#). All rights reserved worldwide. The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™
- Grades 7-12: All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible."
- Sixth grade is a "transition" grade in which both NIV® and ESV are used as students are introduced to the ESV translation.

## Policies

Students are accountable for all information in the [Student Handbook \(https://www.liberty.edu/online-academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/LUOA-Student-Handbook.pdf\)](https://www.liberty.edu/online-academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/LUOA-Student-Handbook.pdf). Below are a few policies that have been highlighted from the Student Handbook.

## Course Grading Policies

The student's grades will be determined according to the following grading scale and assignment weights. The final letter grade for the course is determined by a 10-point scale. Assignments are weighted according to a tier system, which can be referenced on the Grades page in Canvas. Each tier is weighted according to the table below. Items that do not affect the student's grade are found in Tier 0.

Grading Scale	Assignment Weights
A 90-100%	Tier 0 0%
B 80-89%	Tier 1 25%
C 70-79%	Tier 2 35%
D 60-69%	Tier 3 40%
F 0-59%	

In order for students to receive credit for a course, the following conditions have to be met:

- All semester exams and module tests have to be completed.
- All Tier 3 projects or papers have to be completed.
- Fewer than 10 zeros exist in the gradebook for blank submissions in a full credit course and 5 zeros for blank submissions in a semester course.

## Types of Assessments

To simplify and clearly identify which policies apply to which assessment, each assessment has been categorized into one of four categories: Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test. Each applicable item on the course Modules page has been designated with an identifier chosen from among these categories. Thus, a Quiz on the American Revolution may be designated by the title, "1.2.W -

Quiz: The American Revolution.” These identifiers were placed on the Modules page to help students understand which Resubmission and Honor Code policies apply to that assessment (see the Resubmission Policy and Honor Code Policy below for further details).

- **Lesson:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Lesson”*

These include instructional content and sometimes an assessment of that content. Typically, a Lesson will be the day-to-day work that a student completes.

- **Assignment:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as an “Assignment”*

Typical examples of Assignments include, but are not limited to, papers, book reports, projects, labs, and speeches. Assignments are usually something that the student should do his or her best work on the first time.

- **Quiz:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Quiz”*

This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Quizzes cover a smaller amount of material than Tests.

- **Test:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Test”*

This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Tests cover a larger amount of material than Quizzes.

## Resubmission Policy

Students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for every Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, and Test. However, resubmissions may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- **Lesson:** Students are automatically permitted two attempts on a Lesson. Students may freely resubmit for their first two attempts without the need for teacher approval.
- **Assignment:** Students should do their best work the first time on all Assignments. However, any resubmissions must be completed before the student moves more than one module ahead of that Assignment. For example, a student may resubmit an Assignment from Module 3 while in Module 4, but not an Assignment from Modules 1 or 2. High School students may not resubmit an Assignment without expressed written permission from the teacher in a comment.
- **Quiz:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.
- **Test:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.

If a student feels that he or she deserves a resubmission on a Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test due to a technical issue such as a computer malfunction, the student should message his or her teacher to make the request.

## Honor Code Policy

Every time a student violates the Honor Code, the teacher will submit an Honor Code Incident Report. The Student Support Coordinator will review the incident and allocate the appropriate consequences. Consequences, which are determined by the number of student offenses, are outlined below:

- **Warning:** This ONLY applies to high school Lessons and elementary/middle school Assignments and Lessons. Students should view these actions as learning opportunities.
  - **Lessons:** A zero will be assigned for the question only.
  - **Elementary/Middle School Assignment:** The student must redo his or her work; however, the student may retain his or her original grade.
- **1st Offense:**
  - **Lesson, Quiz, or Test:** The student will receive a 0% on the entire assessment.
  - **Assignment:** The student will either:
    - Receive a 0% on the original assignment
    - Complete the Plagiarism Workshop
    - Retry the assignment for a maximum grade of 80%
- **2nd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and be placed on academic probation.
- **3rd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and the Director of Faculty will determine the consequences that should follow,

possibly including withdrawal from the course or expulsion from the academy.

## Materials Selection Policy

LUOA curates educational materials that are consistent with the school's philosophy; however, the fallen human condition depicted in literature (as in Scripture itself) is not always pleasant. Valuable works sometimes have objectionable or profane elements. Good books provide four (4) recognized values.

- They build godly attitudes and character traits.
- They deepen our social and cultural awareness.
- They strengthen our use of written language.
- They provide a lifelong source of enjoyment and relaxation.

In order to instill these values in students and fulfill the stated objectives of the school, all LUOA students are expected to read and study good books on a regular basis. Recognizing that materials designed for one level may not be appropriate for another, three (3) levels of criteria are applied:

- Elementary materials must contain no objectionable material,
- Objectionable elements in sixth through eighth-grade materials must be limited and must serve a specific educational purpose, and
- Objectionable content may be included in high school materials but must be outweighed by positive literary, curricular, and/or Christian values.

The curriculum department has approved required educational materials for students.

## Schedule

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### Module 1: Introduction to Creative Writing

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Developing Great Characters

Week 3: Writers Read: *Little Women*

Week 4: Literary Element: Theme

### Module 2: Family Storytelling

Week 5: Autobiographies and Biographies

Week 6: Autobiographical Incident

Week 7: Writers Read: *My Father's Legacy*

Week 8: Family Memory Narrative

### Module 3: The Fairy Tale

Week 9: Introduction to Fairy Tales and Literary Element: Plot

Week 10: Writers Read: *The Snow Queen*

Week 11: Writers Plan: Fairy Tale

Week 12: Writers Write: Fairy Tale

**Module 4: Fantasy**

Week 13: Introduction, Literary Element: Setting, and Writer's Read: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Week 14: Writers Plan: Fantasy

Week 15: Writers Write: Fantasy

**Module 5: Short Story**

Week 16: Introduction

Week 17: Writers Read: *Rip Van Winkle* and Writer's Plan: Short Story

Week 18: Writer's Write: Short Story