8th Grade Language Arts

LAN-800

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

🖥 Course Description

In 8th Grade Language Arts, students review grammar and vocabulary skills that strengthen their writing abilities. Students incorporate this knowledge as they craft creative writing pieces and nonfiction essays. Writing is an integral part of this curriculum as students learn not only the basics of the writing and research processes, but also how to approach different types of writing, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational. Literature, too, is a primary component of this English class. Students read works from a variety of genres, including novels, short mystery stories, poetry, speeches, and historical nonfiction. Students learn to approach the written word through the lens of a Christian worldview and analyze the secular worldview messages they encounter daily.

◎ Rationale

8th Grade Language Arts will further develop a student's writing, reading, and communication skills as we explore a variety of literary genres and forms of writing from a Biblical perspective. This will be an exciting course, with ample expression of creativity in projects and activities.

Studying writing and literature in this course will prepare students for high school, both in English and in other content areas.

Prerequisite

7th Grade Language Arts

📊 Measurable Learning Outcomes

A. The student will analyze and develop creative or informational media messages.

B. The student will apply knowledge of word origins, analogies, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development within authentic texts.

C. The student will read and analyze a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.

D. The student will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of nonfiction texts.

E. The student will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.

F. The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing.

G. The student will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research project.

📘 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.

This course makes use of third-party digital resources to enhance the learning experience. LUOA staff and faculty have curated these resources. Students can safely access them to complete coursework. Please ensure that internet browser settings, pop-up blockers,

and other filtering tools allow for these resources to be accessed. See Technologies and Resources Used in this Course below for a specific list.

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:

- Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*. Chosen Books, 2006. ISBN: 0800794057
    - Students may acquire this book through a library or bookstore. All are available at Amazon.com in print or Kindle editions

- Students will need to rent or borrow the 1984 George Scott version of *A Christmas Carol*.

Scripture Attribution

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."

Technologies and Resources Used in this Course

The following resource(s) are used throughout this course:

- American Heritage Dictionary

🏛 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

Module 1: Grammar Review

Week 1: Vocabulary Skills & Avoiding Plagiarism

Week 2: Eight Parts of Speech & Punctuation

Week 3: Strong Sentences

Week 4: Strong Paragraphs

Module 2: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Week 5: Introduction, Point of View, Hyperbole

Week 6: Tone, Mood, & Character

Week 7: Satire, Static vs. Dynamic Characters

Week 8: Plot, Structure, & Conflict

Week 9: Interpretation Assignment & Test

Module 3: *A Christmas Carol*

Week 10: Irony, Symbolism, Literary Elements

Week 11: Cause & Effect

Week 12: Compare & Contrast, Test

Module 4: Mystery Stories & Book Report

Week 13: Introduce Holmes

Week 14: "Red-Headed League" & "Silver Blaze"

Week 15: "Silver Blaze"

Module 5: Poetry & Midterm

Week 16: Poetry

Week 17: Poetry

Week 18: Review & Semester Exam

Module 6: *Alice in Wonderland,* Media Literacy, & Persuasive Techniques

Week 19: *Alice in Wonderland*

Week 20: Descriptive Writing

Week 21: Critical Thinking & Visual Media

Week 22: Persuasive Techniques & Fallacies

Week 23: Review &Test

Module 7: Types of Literature & Writing

Week 24: Literary Genres, Autobiography & Memoir

Week 25: Persuasive Writing

Module 8: The Hiding Place

Week 26: Introduction to the Holocaust

Week 27: Novel Study: *The Hiding Place*

Week 28: Novel Study: *The Hiding Place*

Week 29: Novel Study: *The Hiding Place*, Test

Module 9: Research Paper & Oral Presentation

Week 30: Types of Sources, Plagiarism & Paraphrase

Week 31: Citations, Annotated Bibliography

Week 32: Note Cards, Thesis Statement, & Outline

Week 33: Writing Skills

Week 34: First Draft of Research Paper, Introduction to Oral Presentation

Module 10: Oral Presentation, Review, & Final Exam

Week 35: Oral Presentation, Final Draft of Research Paper

Week 36: Review & Final Exam