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Curriculum Catalog

Language Arts 800

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## Language Arts 800 Course Overview

Language Arts 800 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It most specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways:

- **Reading**—reinforces reading comprehension skills by teaching students how to analyze propaganda and other forms of writing, including biographies, autobiographies, formal essays, and informal essays; shows students how to make denotative, symbolic, and connotative readings of a text; introduces both Old English and Middle English languages and literature to develop students' understanding of English language formation and development; prepares students for the higher level literary comprehension skills required in the upper grades.
- **Writing**—develops students' understanding of sentence structure, providing hands-on experience with conjunctions, transitions, clauses, and common sentence errors; teaches language histories and etymologies to help students build on knowledge of word structures, including topics like prefixes, roots, and suffixes; expands on students' vocabulary and spelling skills; gives students the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing business letters, friendly letters, informal essays, and basic literature analyses.
- **Speaking**—offers students experience in delivering oral reports; teaches skills that enable students to become effective speakers and communicators, weaving these skills together throughout the course.
- **Listening**—teaches effective listening comprehension skills, weaving these together throughout the lessons; builds upon students' study skills, as well as helping them become reliable and efficient note takers.

### Curriculum Contents

#### Reading Comprehension Skills

- Analysis of Propaganda
- Denotation, Connotation, and Symbolism
- Elements of Narrative Prose
- Following Written Directions
- Reading Formal and Informal Essays
- Reading Skills—Fact versus Opinion, Validity, and Authority

#### Composition

- Essay/Report—Structure and Process
- Paragraph Elements and Structure
- Writing Informal Essays
- Writing Paragraphs
- Writing Business and Friendly Letters

#### Grammar and Usage

- Conjunctions—Subordinating, Correlative, and Coordinating
- Clauses—Adjective, Adverb, and Dependent/Independent
- Capitalization
- Grammar Errors—Sentence Construction Errors
- Introductory Expressions—Interjections, Participle Phrases, and Adverb Clauses
- Levels of Language Use—Standard/Nonstandard
- Parts of Speech—Nouns, Verbs, Pronouns, Adverbs, Adjectives, and Interjections
- Punctuation—Apostrophes, Hyphens, Italics, Commas, and End Punctuation
- Sentence Structure—Tense, Number, Person, and Transitions

#### Literature Studies

- Nonfiction—Biography and Autobiography
- Survey of English Literature—Old and Middle English
- Speaking and Listening

- Direct/Indirect Communication
- Following Instructions
- Listening Skills—Strategies, Comprehension, and Note-Taking
- Nonverbal Communication
- Oral Report
- Speaking Skills—Purpose, Organization, and Delivery

#### Spelling

- Affixes
- Homonyms
- Borrowed Words
- Confused Spellings
- Silent Letters
- Words with “ei” and “ie”
- Words with “-ize,” “-yze,” “-ise,” “-ent,” “-ant,” “-ance,” “-ence,” “-able,” and “-ible” Endings

#### Vocabulary Building

- Confusing Words
- Connotation/Denotation
- Dictionary Skills
- Etymology
- Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes
- Word Categorization
- Word Relationships

#### Special Topics

- Diacritical Marks
- English Variations
- Etymology
- Media Comprehension
- Note-taking
- Origin/Development of Language—Indo-European, Old and Middle English, and American English
- Use of Reference Materials

#### Literature List

The literary works students will encounter in Language Arts 800 include, but are not limited to:

##### Literature—Featured

###### Nonfiction

- Byrd, Richard. *Flight to the South Pole* (excerpt)
- Hackle, Sparse Gray. “Every Dog Should Own a Man”
- Leacock, Stephen. “My Financial Career”
- “Pain: the Tool of the Wounded Surgeon”
- Stuart, Jesse. *The Thread That Runs So True* (excerpt)

##### Literature—Discussed

###### Poetry

- Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Canterbury Tales*
- “The Ruin”
- “The Seafarer”
- “Widsith”

Unit 1: Communication		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Course Overview	15. Suffixes Change the Spelling of Roots
	2. Documentation	16. Spelling Lesson 2: General
	3. Improving Your Reading: Using Word Parts	17. Quiz 2: Cumulative
	4. Inflections Add Grammatical Meaning	18. Spelling Quiz 2
	5. Word Roots from Latin and Greek	19. Communication Without Words
	6. Categorizing Words and Analogies	20. Direct Nonverbal Communication
	7. Book Report: Pre-1900 Novel*	21. Spelling Lesson 3: Affixes
	8. Spelling Lesson 1: Using ie and ei	22. Quiz 3: Communicating Without Words
	9. Quiz 1: Word Parts/Categories/Analogies	23. Spelling Quiz 3
	10. Spelling Quiz 1	24. Unit 1 Special Project*
	11. Following Directions	25. Test
	12. Project: Directions*	26. Alternate Test*
	13. Project: Writing Directions from a Prompt*	27. Reference
	14. Essay: Write a Technical Document Giving Directions	

Unit 2: Development and Usage of English		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Development of Language: Origins and Dialects	14. Quiz 2: Classification of Words
	2. The Indo-European Family	15. Spelling Quiz 2
	3. Spelling Lesson 1: General/Content Area	16. Adjectives and Adjective Phrases
	4. Quiz 1: History of the English Language	17. Adverbs and Adverb Phrases
	5. Spelling Quiz 1	18. Book Report: Short Story*
	6. Word Classes--Nouns	19. Spelling Lesson 3: Adjectives and Adverbs
	7. Personal and Possessive Pronouns	20. Quiz 3: Cumulative
	8. Other Kinds of Pronouns	21. Spelling Quiz 3
	9. Verbs	22. Unit 2 Special Project*
	10. Adjectives and Adverbs	23. Test
	11. Project: Descriptive Paragraph	24. Alternate Test*
	12. Essay: Writing About an Event	25. Reference
	13. Spelling Lesson 2: General	

Unit 3: Punctuation and Literature		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Ending a Thought: End Punctuation	13. Spelling Quiz 2
	2. Using Punctuation to Link Clauses	14. The Informal Essay
	3. Interrupting a Thought	15. The Anecdote
	4. Following an Introduction	16. Essay: Informal Essay
	5. Spelling Lesson 1: -ant and -ent Endings	17. Spelling Lesson 3: -able, -ible
	6. Quiz 1: Punctuation	18. Quiz 3: Punctuation and Essays
	7. Spelling Quiz 1	19. Spelling Quiz 3
	8. The Formal Essay	20. Unit 3 Special Project*
	9. Analyzing a Formal Essay	21. Test
	10. Project: Analysis of an Essay	22. Alternate Test*
	11. Spelling Lesson 2: -ise, -ize, -yze	23. Reference
	12. Quiz 2: Punctuation/The Formal Essay	

Unit 4: Words and How to Use Them		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. Spelling Lesson 1: Develop Spelling Sense	10. Confusing Words
	2. Spelling Quiz 1	11. Quiz 2: Using Words Correctly
	3. Using the Dictionary	12. Spelling Lesson 3: General
	4. Diacritical Marks	13. Spelling Quiz 3
	5. Using a Thesaurus	14. Project: Book Report: Post-1900 Novel*
	6. Quiz 1: Understanding Words (Dictionary and Thesaurus Skills)	15. Unit 4 Special Project*
	7. Spelling Lesson 2: General and Homonyms	16. Test
	8. Spelling Quiz 2	17. Alternate Test*
	9. Standard and Nonstandard Usage	18. Reference

Unit 5: Correct Language Usage		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. The Apostrophe	15. Project: Speech
	2. The Hyphen	16. Spelling Lesson 2: Content Words
	3. Quotation Marks	17. Quiz 2: Punctuation, Usage, and Spoken Language
	4. Parentheses and Italics	18. Spelling Quiz 2
	5. Capitalization	19. Review of Homonyms, Synonyms and Antonyms
	6. Essay: Choice of Topic	20. Vocabulary Development: Word Pairs
	7. Abbreviations and Acronyms	21. Spelling Lesson 3: Difficult Word Pairs
	8. Numbers and Figures	22. Quiz 3: Correct Usage
	9. Spelling Lesson 1: General and Content Words	23. Spelling Quiz 3
	10. Quiz 1: Written Language	24. Unit 5 Special Project*
	11. Spelling Quiz 1	25. Test
	12. Spoken Language: Biblical Standards	26. Alternate Test*
	13. Project: Biblical Speech	27. Reference
	14. Speaking Qualities	

Unit 6: Language and Literature		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800	1. The Old English Period	14. Quiz 2: The Construction of Sentences
	2. The Old English Language and Literature	15. Spelling Quiz 2
	3. Report: Anglo-Saxon Culture/Literature	16. The Elements of Autobiography
	4. Middle English	17. Autobiographical Excerpt: Jesse Stuart
	5. Report: Geoffrey Chaucer	18. Autobiographical Excerpt: Admiral Byrd
	6. Spelling Lesson 1: -ance, -ence, -ense	19. Essay: Autobiography
	7. Quiz 1: The History of the English Language	20. Spelling Lesson 3: Vocabulary Words
	8. Spelling Quiz 1	21. Quiz 3: Cumulative
	9. Coordinating Conjunctions	22. Spelling Quiz 3
	10. Correlative Conjunctions/Conjunctive Adverbs	23. Project: Book Report: Biography*
	11. Subordinating Conjunctions/Adverb Clauses	24. Unit 6 Special Project*
	12. Relative Pronouns/Adjective Clauses; Phrases and Appositives	25. Test
	13. Spelling Lesson 2: Mispronounced Words	26. Alternate Test*
	27. Reference	

## Unit 7: Critical Reading and Paragraph Skills

## Assignments

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Language Arts 800 | 1. Critical Reading: Symbolism/Connotation      | 15. Spelling Quiz 2                         |
|                   | 2. Critical Reading: Context/Directive Language | 16. Writing a Composition: The Introduction |
|                   | 3. Analyzing an Author's Credentials/Argument   | 17. Essay: Thesis Statement*                |
|                   | 4. Propaganda                                   | 18. Writing a Composition: The Body         |
|                   | 5. Spelling Lesson 1: Silent Letters            | 19. Writing a Composition: The Conclusion   |
|                   | 6. Quiz 1: Critical Reading                     | 20. Writing a Composition: Proofreading     |
|                   | 7. Spelling Quiz 1                              | 21. Essay: Analyzing an Argument            |
|                   | 8. Paragraph Structure                          | 22. Spelling Lesson 3: Unaccented Syllables |
|                   | 9. Essay: Paragraph Types                       | 23. Quiz 3: Cumulative                      |
|                   | 10. Organizing a Unified Paragraph              | 24. Spelling Quiz 3                         |
|                   | 11. Paragraph Coherence/Transition Methods      | 25. Unit 7 Special Project*                 |
|                   | 12. Essay: Paragraph Development                | 26. Test                                    |
|                   | 13. Spelling Lesson 2: Silent Letters           | 27. Alternate Test*                         |
|                   | 14. Quiz 2: The Paragraph                       | 28. Reference                               |

## Unit 8: Writing, Listening, and Reading

## Assignments

- |                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Language Arts 800 | 1. Writing Business Letters                      | 18. Quiz 2: Listening Skills/Nonverbal Communication |
|                   | 2. Three Types of Business Letters               | 19. Spelling Quiz 2                                  |
|                   | 3. Project: Business Letters                     | 20. Distinguishing Between Fiction and Nonfiction    |
|                   | 4. Structure and Form of Personal Letters        | 21. Evaluating the Reliability of Information        |
|                   | 5. Three Types of Personal Letters               | 22. Report: Assessing Reliability                    |
|                   | 6. Project: Personal Letters                     | 23. Sources of Information                           |
|                   | 7. Spelling Lesson 1: General                    | 24. Reading the Newspaper                            |
|                   | 8. Quiz 1: Writing Letters                       | 25. News Magazines/Other Nonfiction Resources        |
|                   | 9. Spelling Quiz 1                               | 26. Project: Newspaper Analysis                      |
|                   | 10. Sound and Listening                          | 27. Spelling Lesson 3: General                       |
|                   | 11. Listening for Literal Meaning                | 28. Quiz 3: Cumulative                               |
|                   | 12. Listening for Implied and Figurative Meaning | 29. Spelling Quiz 3                                  |
|                   | 13. Project: Figures of Speech                   | 30. Unit 8 Special Project*                          |
|                   | 14. Identifying Nonverbal Clues                  | 31. Test   |
|                   | 15. Being a Good Listener                        | 32. Alternate Test*                                  |
|                   | 16. Project: Listening Skills                    | 33. Reference  |
|                   | 17. Spelling Lesson 2: General and Content Words |  |

## Unit 9: The English Language

## Assignments

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|-------------------|--|--|
| Language Arts 800 | 1. English is a Living Language            | 14. Spelling Quiz 2                                |
|                   | 2. Etymology of English Words              | 15. Organizing an Oral Report                      |
|                   | 3. English in the United States            | 16. Developing an Oral Report                      |
|                   | 4. Project: Slang                          | 17. Using Language Appropriately                   |
|                   | 5. Spelling Lesson 1: General              | 18. Effective Speaking Techniques                  |
|                   | 6. Quiz 1: The Changing Language           | 19. Project: Oral Report                           |
|                   | 7. Spelling Quiz 1                         | 20. Spelling Lesson 3: Frequently Misspelled Words |
|                   | 8. Double Negatives                        | 21. Quiz 3: Cumulative                             |
|                   | 9. Dangling Modifiers                      | 22. Spelling Quiz 3                                |
|                   | 10. Shift in Person and Number             | 23. Unit 9 Special Project*                        |
|                   | 11. Shift in Mood and Tense; S/V Agreement | 24. Test   |
|                   | 12. Spelling Lesson 2: General             | 25. Alternate Test*                                |
|                   | 13. Quiz 2: Grammar and History of English | 26. Reference                                      |

Unit 10: Review	
Assignments	
1. History of Language	19. Review Quiz 2: Communication
2. Grammar: Parts of Speech	20. Review Spelling Lesson 3 and 4
3. Punctuation and Capitalization	21. Spelling Quiz 2
4. Abbreviations, Apostrophes, and Hyphens	22. Reading: Word Parts
5. Dictionary and Thesaurus	23. Reading: Context Clues and Sequence
6. Standard English Usage	24. Reading: Fact and Opinion, News Articles
7. Common Sentence Errors	25. Reading: Essays and Autobiographies
8. Paragraphs	26. Project: Analyze a Formal Essay
9. Letters	27. Report: Autobiography
10. Compositions	28. Review Quiz 3: Reading
11. Essay: What Makes a Good Christian?	29. Review Spelling Lesson 5 and 6
12. Review Quiz 1: Language	30. Essay: Short Story
13. Review Spelling Lesson 1 and 2	31. Spelling Quiz 3
14. Spelling Quiz 1	32. Unit 10 Special Project*
15. Communication: Unspoken Factors	33. Test
16. Communication: Spoken Factors	34. Alternate Test*
17. Project: Interview a Friend	35. Reference
18. Following Directions and Listening	

(\*) Indicates alternative assignment