

Literature:

Grades 7-8
Course Syllabus
2026-2027

Course Objectives:

- Develop higher level thinking skills that allow students to think beyond the text
- Analyze components of literature such as plot, character, setting, climax, theme, conflict and resolution
- Dive deeper into reading strategies
- Learn how to engage with literature academically and creatively while further instilling a love for literature
- Learn how to analyze literature through the lens of history and Biblical truth
- Students will improve their grammar skills

Course Components:

- Pre-reading and post-reading activities
- Independent (or at home with family) reading assignments weekly (reading along with an audiobook, when available, is acceptable)
- Vocabulary development
- Comprehension work
- Literature discussions utilizing a variety of formats such as literature circles, interactive notebooking, etc.
- Students will discuss new grammar principles in class that they will practice at home daily.

This course will consist of a short introduction to new grammar principles and some in-class practice of those ideas. We will then explore the literature piece students are currently reading or some in class readings. Students should expect to complete one paper per month to demonstrate their understanding of the literature topics we have discussed in class. Students should expect to read 7 novels over the course of the year. We will have some smaller readings assigned throughout the year both in class and at home.

Course Materials:

- IEW Fix It! Grammar level 2 Town Mouse/Country Mouse
- 7 novels: most based on the middle ages(aligning with our history curriculum),a few middle grade modern novels to explore some other ideas together, and a biography of an important Christian figure from the time period studied.
 - Physical books are required. The brain processes reading the words on the page differently! Audio books are welcome to be used in conjunction with a physical copy. Reading aloud with your student is also encouraged.
 - Books are subject to change based on the individual class' needs. Ample time will be given to purchase if a book changes. I would advise only purchasing books a semester at a time in case we need to make adjustments to pacing or reading levels.
 - Fall Semester
 - *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi (297 pages)
 - *Northwind* by Gary Paulsen (256 pages)
 - *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens (100 pages) I recommend the Penguin Classic edition
 - Spring Semester
 - *A Squires Tale* by Gerald Morris (220 pages)
 - *Restart* by Gordon Korman (256 pages)
 - *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* by Laura Amy Schlitz (96 pages)
 - Students will read a biography independently over winter break
- A blue folder to bring papers for the current novel back and forth to class
- Book tabs
- Pencil box with normal supplies