

Literature:

Grades 5-6

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

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.

This course will consist of an exploration of the literature piece students are currently reading or some in class readings. Students should expect to read 6 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:

- 6 physical 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 in 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
 - *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate Dicamillo (272 pages)
 - *The Door In The Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli (128 pages)
- Spring Semester
 - *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park (152 pages)
 - *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* by Laura Amy Schlitz (96 pages)
 - *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau (270 pages)
- Students will read a biography independently over winter break, with possible engagement in class beforehand depending on time
- A blue folder to bring papers for the current novel back and forth to class
- Book tabs
- Pencil box with normal supplies