

Language, a Gift of God



Moses 6: 5,6 And a book of remembrance was kept, in the which was recorded, in the language of Adam, for it was given unto as many as called upon God to write by the spirit of inspiration;

And by them their children were taught to read and write, having a language which was pure and undefiled.

Course Description

This course in the English language is an adventure in forming the verbal abilities of the mind to equip scholars with one of the greatest of life's assets – mastery of the mother tongue. We will explore the ability to communicate effectively; this is the foundation of success in any endeavor from personal relationships, to functioning in all stations of life, to the propagation of the Gospel. Inestimable fulfillment will come from the personal expression of ideals as scholars labor daily in the curriculum. Greater mastery of the English language will become a foundation block in the seventh grade experience.

In this course, Notebook work will become extensive and students will enter the dialectic stage of questioning, reasoning logically, and taking on independent learning projects. This is in accordance with the normal human development of 11 – 13 year-olds. The basics of all components of language will be taught - composition, etymology, orthography, prosody and syntax. From this foundation, the refinements of language will become possible. Writing and presenting will be daily occupations. Original work will be valued and evaluated regularly, holding to a worthy standard. Composition writing will include the four steps of 1) prewriting, 2) drafting, 3) revising, and 4) presenting. It is also a goal of this course that scholars will enter high school with a broad and substantial vocabulary base.

Course Objectives

1. Foundation: it is expected that scholars will learn the principles of language from a study of the history and the vocabulary; from the principles, the purposes will be determined.
2. Composition: it is expected that scholars will compose on a regular basis, using the steps of pre-writing, drafting, revising and presentation in either written or oral form.
3. Etymology: it is expected that scholars will build a knowledge of Greek, Latin, and some Anglo-Saxon prefixes, suffixes and roots.
4. Orthography
 - a. spelling: we will continue using the dictation method based on the 71 Orton phonograms and application of the 47 rules. It is expected that scholars will learn to spell the "The 100 Most often Misspelled Words in the English Language," plus vocabulary words from all curricula.
 - b. it is expected that scholars will continue to master cursive penmanship.
 - c. additionally, it is expected that scholars will progress in the mastery of oration and elocution.
 - d. it is expected that weekly memorizations will be presented in both written and oral form.
5. Prosody: it is expected that scholars will learn the use of literary devices, elements, and figures of good literature. It is expected that many selections of original work will be produced in a variety of genre.
6. Syntax: it is expected that scholars will learn the basics of parts of speech followed by functions of such in sentences; consequently scholars will be ready for analysis and diagramming of sentences with three or four clauses, drawing from literature, history and from scholars' own writing. It is anticipated that this will result in scholars gaining the skill to construct, analyze, divide and, in general, freely manipulate sentences of complex structure.
7. It is expected that scholars will create a record of the study in their Notebooks by the standards of order, neatness, completeness and accuracy.

Course Texts

1. The scriptures of the restored gospel
2. *Grammar and Composition*, A Beka Book Language Series, Fifth Edition
3. *English from the Roots Up*, J.K. Lundquist and J.L. Lundquist, Literacy Unlimited, volumes I and II
4. Study sheets compiled by the instructor from a variety of language instruction texts
5. Each scholar will select a biography on an historical hero/heroine for the Master Project during the second semester.

Course Assignments

1. Scholars will participate in laying a foundation for language, during which they will identify the principles and then the purposes of the subject.
2. Scholars will develop the ability to write solid sentences, paragraphs and essays. Additionally, scholars will create multiple selections in a variety of genre, such as speeches, short stories, and poetry, including sonnets.
3. Scholars will create a number of Word Studies on words pertinent to language.
4. Scholars will build a fundamental knowledge of Greek, Latin, and some Anglo-Saxon prefixes, suffixes and roots, being able to identify them in spelling and vocabulary words.
5. Scholars will learn the 71 Orton Phonograms as the basis for spelling. They will learn to apply the rules of such to the spelling of words.

6. Scholars will learn to spell the words on the “100 Most often Misspelled Words in the English Language” as well as numerous words from the entire Seventh Grade curricula.
7. Scholars will gain greater mastery of cursive penmanship.
8. Scholars will improve in their ability to deliver written reports, analyses and selections of memorization in proper oratory with improved elocution and with greater confidence.
9. Seventh Grade scholars will learn the elements of style and will take satisfaction in being able to identify them in the works of great literature, including the scriptures.
10. Scholars will learn definitions of parts of speech and will practice their identification and function in sentences.
11. Scholars will master the analysis and diagramming of simple to complex sentences.
12. Analyze and appreciate art and music added to enrich language.
13. Scholars will take weekly tests covering their learning in all curricular subjects.
14. Scholars will create a record of the study in their Notebooks by the standards of order, neatness, completeness and accuracy.
15. Scholars will create a Master Project on a hero/heroine of their choice which will cross all curricula.

Contact Information

As a Seventh Grade teacher at American Heritage School, I am interested in the success of each youngster. I am happy to help in any way possible. Parent or scholar should never hesitate to contact me for clarification or assistance.

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