

Syllabus: Literature 4

Course Description

Intended for students at a fourth grade reading level, students will read a variety of great books. During the school year they will read on their own, as well as orally in class, being taught to use punctuation as clues. Memory work, art projects, letter writing, vocabulary skills and more will be used to add excitement to the class. Comprehension skills will be emphasized through both oral and written answers. Common literary techniques will be taught and students will be able to identify them in all the different books. Students will learn to apply a Christian worldview as they examine character qualities and experiences in these enthralling works. Most importantly, they will fall in love with reading! Recommended for grade 4. Homework will average 2 - 3 hours per week, depending on reading speed.

Attendance and Participation

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

Assignments and Tests

Assignments will be posted weekly on the course page. Parents are responsible for making sure that the student completes all reading, vocabulary, projects, and written comprehension assignments on time.

Reading: The students will need to keep up with reading assignments in order to participate in class discussion. Oral Reading: Oral reading will be an integral part of each class. In this non-stressful environment we will increase our ability to read with fluency, expression, enunciation, projection, and observance of punctuation. Assessments will be ongoing throughout each semester.

Vocabulary: We will be learning vocabulary as we go along. Please keep a Vocabulary Notebook and a good dictionary nearby. Journals: Students will be

asked to write short journal entries throughout the year. These entries will be shared during class time and will be counted as part of the participation grade. Comprehension Questions: Each semester four sets of comprehension questions will be collected and graded. Students are expected to write their answers in complete sentences while restating part of the questions in their answer on all assignments. Projects: Two graded projects will be given per semester. The projects will usually be of a creative, hands-on nature. Descriptions and due dates are given on the home page.

All assignments are due by 11:55pm ET on the due date. In lieu of a mid-term test, students will submit a book report during mid-term test week at the end of the first semester. In lieu of a final test, students will submit an oral reading presentation during class in the last week of the second semester.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| ● Class Attendance | 5% |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Homework | 20% |
| ● Quizzes | 20% |
| ● Projects | 20% |
| ● Oral Reading | 20% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

Literature 4 Course Kit (003508)

- Tom Sawyer (435041)
- Tom Sawyer Comp Guide (000733)
- Charlie and Chocolate Factory (435180)
- Charlie and Chocolate Factory Comp Guide (000726)
- Dangerous Journey (630030)
- Dangerous Journey Comp Guide (630030)
- The Hobbit (290020)
- The Hobbit Comp Guide (000760)
- Mary Poppins (250481)
- Mary Poppins Comp Guide (000758)
- 21 Balloons (435930)
- 21 Balloons Comp Guide (000768)
- Faerie Gold (460300)
- Leepike Ridge (490595)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.

