

Syllabus

I do not yet know the interests, abilities, and passions of the kids, and I like to keep things flexible, drawing on the many ideas of the students. However, I can assure you all students will practice writing informative, creative, and persuasive writings each year.. Literary elements will be covered in each class. Grammar will be stressed more in the 3-6 grade classes, becoming a heavy focus as students edit their work; however, grades 1-2 will regularly practice dictation.

The charts below show some ideas of projects and topics we may use. In addition, students will play games together or do short writing games each class period.

Types of Writing

Informative Writing

- Books
- Newspaper articles
- Magazines
- Headings
- Captions
- Sidebars
- Posters
- "Zoo posters"

Creative Writing

- Creating Characters, Settings, Plots...
- Realistic vs. Fantasy

Narrative Writing

- Personal Narratives

Poetry (stanza, rhyme, rhythm, syllables)

- Rhyme - couplets
- Acrostic
- Shape
- Haiku
- Free Verse
- Songs/Lyrics

Persuasive Writing

- Letter
- Speech

- Commercial
- Advertisements

Homework

Literary Elements	Grammar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similes, Metaphors • Alliteration • Onomatopoeia • Vocabulary - synonyms, antonyms, definitions, use of Thesaurus and Dictionary • Dialogue • Speech and thought bubbles • Adjectives • Verbs • Adverbs • Prepositional phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punctuation - periods, commas, exclamation marks, question marks • How to punctuate dialogue • Spelling - students will have a section/page as a mini, personalized “word wall” or their own personal spelling words • What do we capitalize? When is capitalization used - what purposes?

Optional for all grades; however, I will send home ideas for families to use throughout the week to practice and expand on what we learn in class. However, all grades will be asked to publish at least 2 revised and edited works - 1 will be displayed at Journey’s Spring Showcase.

Homework will be similar throughout grades so families can all work on assignments together.

Speaking and Sharing

Students will choose what they present and share. Classes will help decide which type of presentation they would like to do. Everyone will participate in at least one sharing this year. (Of course, if students are feeling anxious, exceptions will be made).

Lesson Plans

Each day, students will follow a predictable schedule, which will be printed on the board.

Each class includes:

- Prayer
- Sharing (writing from last week, books from home, any writing they've done and want to share)
- Writing Games - Often with partners or in groups & outside if possible
- Short writing activities focusing on literary devices
- Lessons to introduce a type of writing or writing project
- Reading of mentor text/samples of writing
- Brainstorming
- Drafting

Dictation and editing of sample texts will be done at least twice, as we learn to revise and edit for our two “published” works. There will be 2 classes where we will focus on revising and editing rather than brainstorming and drafting as we prepare to publish works. The writing of a final copy will need to be completed at home, but students will have at least three weeks to complete this work.