



Junior Division Prep Language Arts (11/12 year olds)

Junior Division Prep students will read beautiful literature of various genres. They will practice literary analysis skills, such as identifying parts of a plot, types of conflict, and common literary devices. Through class discussions, students will practice referencing a text, listening to others, and offering their own observations. In this course, students will develop their narrative and expository writing through a deep understanding of the genres and helpful exemplar tasks. They will apply what they have observed to their own writing: elaborative detail, strong word choice, transitional language, sentence variety, and thoughtful organization. They'll be challenged to grow in their ability to respond to texts and to express themselves clearly and thoughtfully.

Humanities Focus

Junior Division Prep students will study literature with an Eastern Hemisphere focus. This focus provides parents with an optional emphasis for social studies work at home, and stands alone as a rich context for students to engage literature which tells the story of various cultures and peoples.

Literature Objectives

- To read and compare/contrast a variety of works of excellent literature
- To understand and be able to identify the parts of a typical plot.
- To identify different types of conflict and themes in literature.
- To become familiar with common literary devices
- To reference the text to make a conclusion
- To listen and contribute to class discussions about a text

Writing Curriculum: Empowering Writers

Writing Objectives (adapted from the Empowering Writers curriculum guide):

- To employ a writing process: gathering and organizing ideas, drafting, revising, editing, and sharing
- To write in clear and complete sentences of varied lengths and construction
- To choose varied and precise vocabulary and to employ transitions
- To craft paragraphs of increasing complexity, including a thesis and closing statement as well as organized and detailed supporting sentences.
- To practice different forms of writing (ie narrative, persuasive, informative) and vary the tone and structure appropriately
- To be introduced to a five paragraph essay format

Not Covered: This course will not teach spelling, handwriting, typing, grammar, or writing mechanics such as punctuation. Parents are expected to teach these at home.

Prerequisites: Students must be 11 on or before August 31 to be enrolled in Junior Division Prep. Students should be able to compose a simple paragraph using age-appropriate writing conventions.

Student Expectations: Students in this course will be expected to complete about 3-4 hours of outside homework each week. They will be asked to keep track of their assignments and turn them in on time.

Parent Expectations: Parents are expected to teach and reinforce writing conventions, offer support and feedback during the writing process, and support readers as needed. Parents should expect to be involved daily in the at-home work required.