

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce Seventh Graders to the genre of literature as a subject influenced by Christianity's westward move to the New World. The subjects, types and authors of literature are examined from a perspective of the importance of discerning and establishing individual character. The scholars will be introduced to literature as "The expression of life in words of truth and beauty; the written record of man's spirit – his thoughts, emotions and aspirations." Scholars will view literature as "The handmaid of history, unveiling the soul, revealing man as a doer of deeds and a dreamer of dreams." Selections of literature will be taken from the period studied in the history curriculum; hence, achieving integration, as fully as is reasonable, of both the history and literature curricula.

(Quotes from Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*)

Development of the distinctive genre of literature will include the biography, the drama, the essay, the letter, the novel, poetry, scripture as literature, the sermon, the short story, and the speech. Classic selections will be read aloud by the teacher and discussed. The scholars will do extensive personal reading. Scholars will learn to discern the distinguishing elements of good literature, those being plot, setting, character development, theme and style.

Course Objectives

1. It is expected that scholars will participate in the foundation laying of this subject through an exploration of the history, principles and purposes of literature.
2. It is expected that scholars will cultivate and refine language skills toward the goal of developing masterful communication.
3. It is planned that scholars will evaluate and comprehend the distinctive of many types of literature.
4. It is expected that scholars will develop the method of scriptural reasoning, reflecting from scriptural principles and primary sources.
5. It is expected that scholars will be lead to relate and apply gospel principles to their lives.
6. It is expected that scholars will cultivate literary appreciation and analysis skills.
7. It is expected that scholars will develop composition style and competence.
8. It is expected that scholars will build vocabulary, and the skills of discussion, oral presentation, debate, and oratory.
9. 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. The Noah Plan *Literature Curriculum Guide*, by Rosalie June Slater, The Foundation for American Christian Education
3. *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by Phillip Keller
4. *Exiled*, by Helene Holt
5. "The First Vision," Joseph Smith, *Book of Mormon*
6. *The Riverside Shakespeare*, G. Blakemore Evans and J.J.M. Tobin, General and Textual Editors, Houghton Mifflin
7. "MacBeth," William Shakespeare, Folger Shakespeare Library
8. Various selections of poetry, essays, letters, quotes, sermons, speeches, etc. prepared by instructor

9. 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 employ the 4R method to:
 - a. research - the author, background, nation, language, vocabulary, and geographic setting of each literary selection.
 - b. reason - evaluate styles of various authors; compare styles and their effects; identify the principles underlying various themes in the works studied; reason cause to effect in analysis of characterization, plot, theme, and style.
 - c. relate – character and literary analyses; discuss, debate, participate in oral readings and presentations, oratory and interpretation.
 - d. record – observations, analyses, discussions, debates, readings, and interpretations in the form of paragraphs and essays.
3. Scholars will construct T-Charts on major characters of literature. Rather than the “external appearance/internal qualities” approach of the elementary grades, seventh grade scholars will chart internal characteristics/external evidence of such.
4. Scholars will create Word Studies, some of which will be assigned, some of which will be selected by the scholars.
5. Scholars will compose original works in a variety of the genre, i.e., “scripture,” short story, poetry, sonnet.
6. 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.
7. Analyze and appreciate art and music added to enrich literature.
8. Scholars will take weekly tests covering their learning in all curricular subjects.
9. Scholars will create a record of the study in their Notebooks by the standards of order, neatness, completeness and accuracy.
10. 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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