

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Meaning and Communication

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 1: All students will read and comprehend general and technical material.

Benchmarks:

1. Use reading for multiple purposes.
2. Read with developing fluency a variety of texts
3. Selectively employ the most effective strategies to construct meaning.
4. Selectively employ the most effective strategies to recognize words as they construct meaning, including the use of context clues, etymological study, and reference materials.
5. Respond personally, analytically, and critically to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts, providing examples of how the texts influence their lives and their role in society.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Create Plot Charts: Describe setting and characters in short stories and novels, in addition to explaining rising action, climax, and falling action.

Resources:

Internet for background information for short stories
Books, newspapers, magazines
Audio and video tapes and DVD's
Mark Twain Satirical essays
Edgar Allan Poe short stories
Sherlock Holmes stories
An episode of Star Trek the Next Generation, "Darmuk"

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Meaning and Communication

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs, and compositions.

Benchmarks:

1. Write fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions
2. Recognize and approximate authors' innovative techniques to convey meaning and influence and audience when composing their own texts.
2. Plan, draft, revise, and edit their texts and analyze and critique the texts of others in such areas as purpose, effectiveness, cohesion, and creativity.
3. Demonstrate precision in selecting appropriate language conventions when editing text.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Write stories in forms of mystery, science fiction, fantasy, etc.
- Write stream of consciousness stories
- Evaluate peer assignments for correctness in grammar and mechanics.

Resources:

Examples of assignments, i.e. short mystery story for mysteries, short science fiction story for science fiction, etc.

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Meaning and Communication

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 3: All students will focus on meaning and communication as they listen, speak, view, read, and write in personal social, occupational, and civic contexts.

Benchmarks:

1. Integrate listening, viewing, speaking, and writing skills for multiple purposes and in varied contexts.
3. Read and write fluently, speak confidently, listen and interact appropriately, view critically, and represent creatively.
5. Employ the most effective strategies to construct meaning while reading, listening to, viewing, or creating texts.
7. Recognize and use varied innovative techniques to construct text, convey meaning, and express feelings to influence an audience.
8. Analyze their responses to oral, visual, written and electronic texts, providing examples of how texts affect their lives, connect them with the contemporary world, and transmit issues across time.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Complete a video “mockumentary” project.
- Give feedback to groups to improve writing skills.
- Review written stories and scripts experimenting with various forms.
- Write in journal daily.
- Show how “mocumentary” project relates to Catholic Social Teachings.

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Language

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 4: All students will use the English language effectively.

Benchmarks:

3. Explore and explain how the same words have different usages and meanings in different contexts, cultures, and communities.
4. Demonstrate ways in which communication can be influenced through word usage.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Write a story from the perspective of a different gender, race, etc.
- Write parodies of various existing forms (mockumentaries).

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Literature

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 5: All students will read and analyze a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature and other materials to seek information, ideas, enjoyment, and understanding of their individuality, our society's common heritage, common humanity and rich diversity.

Benchmarks:

1. Select, read, listen to, view, and respond to classic and contemporary texts recognized for quality and merit.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Write journal responses on what students read in the novels they chose.
- Read "The Seven Stages of Man" by William Shakespeare and make up an imaginary character and take him/her through the seven stages.

Resources:

Novels of students own choosing

"The Seven Stages of Man" by William Shakespeare

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Voice

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 6: All students will learn to communicate information accurately and effectively and demonstrate their expressive abilities by creating oral, written, and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience

Benchmarks:

2. Evaluate the power of using multiple voices in their oral and written communication to persuade, inform, entertain, and inspire their audiences.
3. Analyze the style and characteristics of authors, actors, and artists of classics and masterpieces to determine why these voices endure.
4. Document and enhance a developing voice with authentic writings for different audiences and purposes.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Complete group evaluations –verbal—of each student’s individual written work for the purpose of improvement.
- Assess examples of classic author’s pieces, both written and verbal, as entire class.
- Keep all written examples and peer evaluations to refer to.

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Skills and Processes

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 7: All students will demonstrate, analyze, and reflect upon the skills and processes used to communicate through listening, speaking, viewing, reading, and writing.

Benchmarks:

1. Use a combination of strategies when encountering unfamiliar texts while constructing meaning.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Analyze the use of tone, voice, and mood on written evaluations of peer stories.

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Genre and Craft of Language

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 8: All students will explore and use the characteristics of different types of texts, aesthetic elements, and mechanics—including text structure, figurative and descriptive language, spelling, punctuation, and grammar—to construct and convey meaning.

Benchmarks:

1. Identify and use selectively mechanics that facilitate understanding.
2. Describe and use characteristics of various narrative genre and complex elements of narrative technique to convey ideas and perspectives.
3. Identify and use aspects of the craft of speaker, writer, and illustrator to formulate and express their ideas artistically.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Use the elements of grammar in stories correctly and identify them in the writings of others.
- Write in journals –responses should include using symbols, allusion, developing characters, writing about what is included in various genres (i.e. elements of a mystery)
- Write a story containing imagery, use of dialogue, irony, etc.

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Depth of Understanding

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 9: All students will demonstrate understanding of the complexity of enduring issues and recurring problems by making connections and generating themes within and across texts.

Benchmarks:

1. Analyze and reflect on universal themes and substantive issues from oral, visual and written texts.
2. Synthesize from multiple texts representing varied perspectives and apply the principles and generalizations needed to investigate and confront complex issues and problems.
3. Develop and extend a thesis by analyzing differing perspectives and resolving inconsistencies in order to support a position.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Ideas in Action

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 10: All students will apply knowledge, ideas, and issues drawn from texts to their lives and the lives of others.

Benchmarks:

2. Function as literate individuals in varied contexts within the students' lives and beyond the classroom.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Solve problems creatively in the classroom by looking at or evaluating an existing problem, i.e. a journal concerning peace talks in Northern Ireland.
- Write a story from the point of view of a person involved in an existing problem, i.e. peace talks in Northern Ireland.

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Inquiry and Research

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 11: All students will define and investigate important issues and problems using a variety of resources, including technology, to explore and create texts.

Benchmarks:

1. Generate questions about important issues, that affect them or society, or topics about which they are curious: narrow the questions to a clear focus; and create a thesis or hypothesis.
2. Determine, evaluate and use resources that are most appropriate and readily available for investigating a particular question or topic.
3. Synthesize and evaluate information to draw conclusions and implications based on their investigation of an issue or problem.
4. Research and select the medium and format to be used to present conclusions based on the investigation of an issue or problem.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

Resources:

English Language Arts Curriculum

Strand: Critical Standards

Class: Creative Writing

Standard 12: All students will develop and apply personal, shared, and academic criteria for the enjoyment, appreciation, and evaluation of their own and others' oral, written, and visual texts.

Benchmarks:

1. Apply sets of standards for individual use according to the purpose of the communication context.
2. Analyze and apply individual, shared, and academic standards in various contexts.
3. Use literary history, tradition, theory, terminology, and other critical standards to develop and justify judgements about the craft and significance of oral, visual, and written texts.
4. Create a collection of personal work based on individual, shared, and academic standards, justifying judgments about the craft and significance of each selection.
5. Apply diverse standards (rhetorical and societal) to evaluate whether a communication is truthful, responsible, and ethical for a specific purpose.

Sample Activity/Assessment Tasks:

- Evaluate peer stories according to specific guidelines in written, group oral, and in-class discussions.
- Create a portfolio of work and include an index.

Resources:

