

ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus CR108: Intermediate Critical Reading II

Course Description

ACES Intermediate Critical Reading II hones students' critical responses to different genres of literature most commonly encountered in academic settings and on state-wide and national exams. Students will become competent in the 7 habits of highly effective readers, which will increase their reading speed, comprehension levels and reading vocabularies. In addition, they will gain familiarity with elements of genre ranging from literary non-fiction to science fiction. Through written, visual and kinesthetic responses, students will acquire: the skill set of effective critical readers, a deep understanding of selected literary texts suitable as evidence for essay writing on state and national exams, an appreciation and enjoyment of literature that is the basis for life-long reading. In addition to instruction time and in-class activities, students will read and keep reading journals outside of class.

This class takes a step-by-step approach to teaching students how to find the important information in sentences, paragraphs and entire articles. All readings are carefully sequenced with the Lexile Framework for Reading (<https://lexile.com/>), a scientific way to match readers with appropriate-level texts. For example, the classic children's book *The Cat in the Hat* has a Lexile level of 260L and is well-suited for students in 1st grade-and-younger, whereas Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* has a Lexile level of 860L and is suitable for academically-advanced 4th-and-5th graders and typical middle-school students. CR108 features readings in the Lexile Range 1250L-1470L. Successful completion of CR108 prepares students to enter CR109, where they will master more advanced readings.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- enhance student's reading comprehension
- master advanced readings in various subjects: literature, science, health, plays, poetry, opinion papers, philosophy, fiction, social science, satire
- prepare students for high-school level Pre-AP/SAT/ACT readings

Class Structure

- Words-Of-The-Day & Vocabulary Quiz: Begin with words of the day (taken from previous reading) with sentence where it was found
- Major Feature of the day and/or Major Rhetorical Device of the day: Lecture on a major feature or rhetorical device with examples from SAT readings or other passages
- Reading and group work:
 - o Provide a longer passage for students to read
 - o Identify unknown words with context cues
 - o Group work on ideas presented based on Feature/Rhetorical Device
- Study technique/ Vocabulary Game

Homework consists of producing concise notes and text marking, writing explanatory paragraphs and analyzing passages and answering critical thinking questions mirroring those on the SAT and ACT.

Course Schedule:

Date	Reading Passages	Lexile	Homework
Week 1	Benjamin Franklin: The Ultimate Solution Creator "Seven Minutes of Terror, Eight Years of Ingenuity" Becoming a Doctor Legacy of the Marchers on Washington Researchers Beginning to Better Understand False Memory Formation	1260-1270	Reading Questions & Take-Home Reading
Week 2	California Concert Notes- George Gershwin Processes Unearthing Pterosaurs	1280-1290	Reading Questions
Week 3	Water on Earth Egypt, the Kingdom of Kush, and Mesopotamia Solving New York's Hurricane Problem with Representations Spit for Silk	1300-1310	Reading Questions
Week 4	The Age of Exploration Measure R Walking Around Town Worldwide Loss of Bees a Growing Concern	1340	Reading Questions & Writing Assignment
Week 5	Analysis of the Declaration of Independence The Cooling From The Warmth of Nature California and Mesopotamia: Similarities and Differences	1340	Reading Questions & Writing Assignment
Week 6	Using Cellphones and Computers to Transmit Information Water Main Break in Downtown NYC	1350	Reading Questions
Week 7	French-Native American Relations in the Great Lakes Region Transcript of the Gettysburg Address Centuries of Peace Black Spring Coffee	1360-1380	Reading Questions
Week 8	Coastal Drilling in Sunny California The American Revolution, 1763-1783 Climbing Space	1390-1420	Reading Questions
Week 9	"Suffrage Wins in the Senate: Now Goes to States" Jefferson, Church, and State SAT Reading #1	1420-1430	Reading Questions & Take-Home Reading
Week 10	Fewer Americans Going to Prison Plymouth Colony The New York Conspiracy of 1741	1430-1460	Writing Assignment
Week 11	Thanksgiving: Fact or Fiction Rosa Parks: 100 th Birthday SAT Reading #2	1460-1470	Course Evaluation