



ACES Academic Enrichment Center

2019 Summer Enrichment Course Syllabus

Course Name: Advanced Critical Reading – Classic Reading and Style for 6th – 8th Graders

Course Description

In Advanced Critical Reading – Classic Reading and Style, students build on the skills acquired in Critical Reading Level II. Not only will students continue to learn the reading techniques that will be useful for scoring well on the SAT and ACT English sections, but they will also begin to engage in a meta-analysis of the texts that they are reading. Students will come to understand that authors are influenced by their historical, personal, and economic circumstances, which all combine to have a substantial effect on their writings. Through taking such an analytical approach, students will improve the depth of their thinking and gain skills that will be essential for writing college-level papers. By focusing primarily on more advanced reading materials, specifically some of the classic literature they will be expected to read later in their academic careers (such as excerpts from epics like *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare plays, poetry, and novels such as those by authors like Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, and Ernest Hemingway), students gain more experience close reading and analyzing difficult texts. This course challenges students to think outside the box about texts they have probably heard of before and to identify fallacies in argument so as to become better, more analytical thinkers and stronger, more persuasive writers.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- Gain confidence and familiarity with ideas, motifs, and themes from classic books they will most likely be expected to read later in their academic careers
- Become more comfortable when presented with difficult reading material
- Learn to read beyond the surface of the story and into the themes and author's purpose and background
- Prepare students for AP level/ACT/SAT readings

Class Structure

Class begins with a short writing warm-up to introduce the new topic. The writing topic of the day is developed and discussed including the how hard the reading was and why, the background and influences on the author, the history of the time the author was writing, and the importance of the work in the literary canon.

Date	Topics	Homework
7/15	Epics and their conventions and influence	Reading and Essay Log # 1
7/16	Chaucer, Arthurian literature, and the quest	Reading and Essay Log #2
7/17	Shakespeare's plays and sonnets, their conventions, themes, and their reflection of the time	Reading and Essay Log #3
7/18	The Novel – the novel as fiction and as a voice of influence and change	Reading and Essay Log #4
7/19	Continue discussion of fiction, discuss nonfiction and how nonfiction impacts change	Course Evaluation