

2017-2018 Adventist Christian Academy
7th and 8th Grade Language Arts
Curriculum Overview and Weekly Homework Calendar

Teacher: Danielle Cameron
Email address: cameron.daniellec@gmail.com (best way to reach me)
Cell phone: 727-804-0921 (text is preferred and I'll call you)

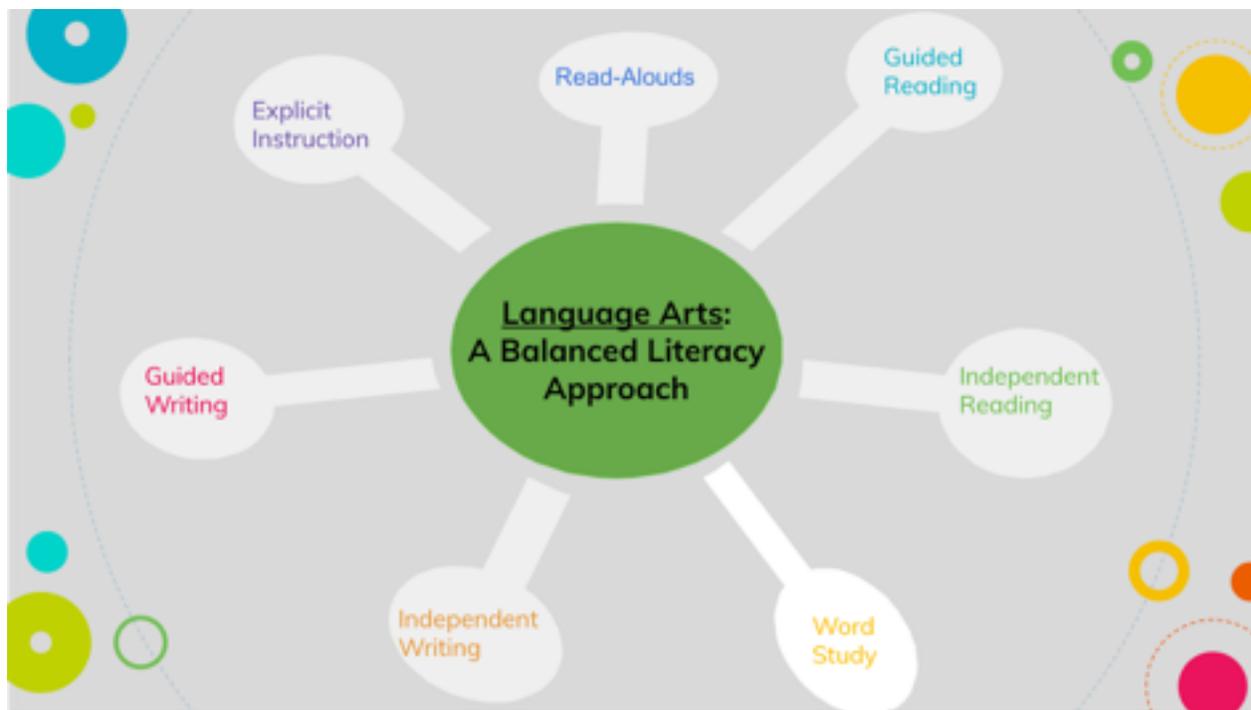
Materials used:

Various age and grade appropriate literature (titles may change)
Pathways
Lucy Calkins' Writing Units of Study
Reading notebook
Writing notebook

Overall Goals:

- to create a God-centered environment for all students
- to help students take responsibility for themselves
- to encourage students to think critically
- to have a safe classroom community where students are comfortable taking risks to express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas

Balanced Literacy:



Each component of a balanced literacy program is crucial and works together to provide a well-rounded course to support student growth.

Homework and Grading:

Homework is assigned on a nightly/ weekly basis and is essential to reinforce and/or practice what we've studied in class or to review skills previously obtained. The calendar is below. Student grades will consist of classwork, tests, quizzes, and homework.

Reading: Students are expected to read 60 minutes each night (or a total of 300 minutes per school week) and to log their reading in their reading log.

Word Study: Word study is a research-based approach to spelling and vocabulary. Each rotation will be approximately 10 school days, not including vacation days and weekends. At the end of the 10 days, there will be a word study assessment requiring students to understand the rule and/or pattern, the spelling of the words, and the meaning. Students may be asked to spell words they've not seen previously, but follow the pattern and/or rule they've learned.

Students will need to choose one "activity" from the Word Study Menu every school day of the week. The activities should include the following:

- 1 activity to practice/ learn word meanings
- 1 activity to practice/ learn spelling
- 1 activity to practice/ learn word pattern/ rule
- 2 students choice (depending on the number of school days in the week)

Writing: Students will be asked to respond to a prompt every week and turn it in every Monday. It may be turned in before. The guidelines for the prompt writing are:

Overall	Organization	Support	Sentences	Word Choice	Mechanics
writing is completely focused on the topic	ideas in the writing are consistently well-organized and presented in logical order	consistently has strong, specific details	writing consistently has correct sentence structure	uses multiple sensory descriptions from three or more senses	demonstrates increasing attention to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conventions of print• capitalization & punctuation• age-appropriate spelling• word endings• upper- and lowercase letters
story conveys emotions	piece has an effective beginning, middle and end		variety of sentence structures		
	sequencing is successful				

Curriculum Overview/ Homework Calendar:

Below you'll find an overview for the school year. It is my intention to follow this guide; however, there may be times when we will need to deviate from this plan. Should that happen, I inform students immediately.

Week of . . .	Homework	
August 14th-25th	Introduction— Reading Interest Inventory Writing Interest Inventory Testing— Running Records Writing Samples Intro to Word Study— Pre-assessment Practice Sort Assessment Other Routines— Reading Notebook Writing Notebook Reading Log	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)
August 28th	Reading: Story Elements Short Stories Writing: Narrative Craft	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes
September 4th	Reading: Story Elements Short Stories Writing: Narrative Craft	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— Imagine a future in which we each have a personalized robot servant. What would yours be like? What would it do? What features would it have?
September 11th	Reading: Story Elements Short Stories Writing: Narrative Craft	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— What things will people in the future say about how we live now? (Examples: They ate that? They believed that?)

Week of . . .	Homework	
September 18th	<p>Reading: A Thousand Shall Fall Themes: faith, trust, family, fortitude</p> <p>Book Clubs</p> <p>Writing: Narrative Craft</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— What road-trip would you take if you suddenly could? Write about it.</p>
September 25th Week of Prayer	<p>Reading: A Thousand Shall Fall Themes: faith, trust, family, fortitude</p> <p>Book Clubs</p> <p>Writing: Narrative Craft</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p>
October 2nd	IA Testing for grades 3-8	No Homework
October 9th End of Qtr— 13th	<p>Reading: A Thousand Shall Fall Themes: faith, trust, family, fortitude</p> <p>Book Clubs</p> <p>Writing: Narrative Craft</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— What does your name mean? Free write about names: names you like, names you don't, how a name can affect a person's life, how you feel about your own name, why your parents chose your name, etc.</p>
October 16th P/T Conferences— 19th	<p>Reading: A Thousand Shall Fall Themes: faith, trust, family, fortitude</p> <p>Book Clubs</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— List six true sentences that begin with the words "I'll never forget..."</p>

Week of . . .	Homework	
October 23rd	<p>Reading: A Thousand Shall Fall Themes: faith, trust, family, fortitude</p> <p>Book Clubs</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— List 10 places in the world that you would most like to visit, 10 places you've been, and 10 places you would never want to go.</p>
October 30th Outdoor Education— 10/30 to 11/2	<p>Reading: Informational Text Student Choice</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	No Homework
November 6th	<p>Reading: Informational Text Student Choice</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— A guitar pick, a red balloon, and a wicker basket. Write a scene or a poem that includes these three objects.</p>
November 13th	<p>Reading: Informational Text Student Choice</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Write about your own worst family vacation memory.</p>
November 20th Thanksgiving Break	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
November 27th	<p>Reading: Informational Text Student Choice</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Create a brand new holiday with its own traditions, rituals, foods, and activities.</p>

Week of . . .	Homework	
December 4th	<p>Reading: Informational Text Student Choice</p> <p>Writing: Research Reports</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Write about your best family vacation memory.</p>
December 11th End of Qtr— 15th	<p>Reading: Taught by A Tiger</p> <p>Writing: Prompt Writing</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Imagine that someone says to you, “Because that’s how we’ve always done it!” Write this out as a scene. (Think: Who said it, what were the circumstances, how did you respond, etc.)</p>
December 18th	<p>Reading: Taught by A Tiger</p> <p>Writing: Prompt Writing</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— What traditions does your family have? List all of them or just pick one and write about it.</p>
December 25th Christmas Break	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
January 1st Christmas Break	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
January 8th	<p>Reading: Taught by A Tiger</p> <p>Writing: Prompt Writing</p> <p>Testing: Writing Samples</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Think about your strongest emotion right now (irritation, boredom, happiness, contentment, etc.) and find five quotes about this emotion.</p>

Week of . . .	Homework	
January 15th MLK, Jr. Day— 15th P/T Conferences— 18th	Reading: Taught by A Tiger Writing: Memoir	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— What do you struggle with the most? Write about it.
January 22nd	Reading: Taught by A Tiger Book Clubs Writing: Memoir	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— Write about someone who has no enemies. Is it even possible?
January 29th	Reading: Taught by A Tiger Book Clubs Writing: Memoir	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— Write about the best piece of advice you ever received.
February 5th	Reading: Jump Ship to Freedom Book Clubs Writing: Memoir	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— "I was so mortified, I wanted to crawl into a hole!" Write a short narrative (fiction or nonfiction) where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it if you want.
February 12th	Reading: Jump Ship to Freedom Writing: Memoir	Reading log— nightly 60 minutes Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu) Writing— You have a chance to go back and completely re-do an event in your life. What is it, and how to you change it? What is the outcome? This can be a real or fictional event.

Week of . . .	Homework	
February 19th President's day—19th	<p>Reading: Jump Ship to Freedom</p> <p>Writing: Test Prep— Prompt Writing</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Use these two lines of dialogue in a story: "What's in your hand?" "It's mine. I found it."</p>
February 26th End of Qtr— 3/2	WrAP Testing 3, 5, 7 Writing Test 3-8	No Homework
March 5th Spring Break	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
March 12th	<p>Reading: Jump Ship to Freedom</p> <p>Writing: Memoir</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Parents and/or Guardians are our first and most important teachers. Describe a valuable lesson you learned from a parent or guardian.</p>
March 19th Week of Prayer	<p>Reading: Jump Ship to Freedom</p> <p>Writing: Memoir</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Imagine a moral dilemma (for example, you see someone shoplift or a friend tells a blatant lie to her parents about where she was last night) and explain what you would do and why you would do it.</p>
March 26th Color Run— 29th Good Friday— 30th	<p>Reading: Esperanza Rising</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Create a how-to manual for something you can do well (make a craft, bake cookies, restring a guitar, apply make up, etc.). Describe the process so that someone else could complete the task based on your directions. Use present tense verbs.</p>

Week of . . .	Homework	
April 2nd	<p>Reading: Esperanza Rising</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Sometimes we find ourselves in situations that force us to face our deepest fears. Tell about a time when you had to face one of your greatest fears—or make up the story.</p>
April 9th	<p>Reading: Esperanza Rising</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— Rewrite “The Tale of the Three Little Pigs” by using people that you know as the pigs and the wolf.</p>
April 16th	<p>Reading: Esperanza Rising</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— There is a saying that you should be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it. Describe a time when you wished for something and got it—and then wished you hadn’t—or make up a story in which this happens to the character.</p>
April 23rd FL Festival of the arts 25th-28th	<p>Reading: Esperanza Rising</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— I admire people who . . .</p>
April 30th	<p>Reading: Esperanza Rising</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— The hardest thing I’ve ever done . . .</p>

Week of . . .	Homework	
May 7th	<p>Reading: Review</p> <p>Writing: Research-based Argument Essay</p>	<p>Reading log— nightly 60 minutes</p> <p>Word study— nightly word study activity (see word study menu)</p> <p>Writing— I am brave because . . .</p>
Math 14th 8th Grade Trip— 14th-15th Graduation— 16th Last Day of school—17th		No Homework