

## Language Arts 800 Fundamentals

Language Arts 800 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It most specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways:

- **Reading** reinforces reading comprehension skills by teaching students context clues and sequencing; how to analyze propaganda and other forms of writing, including biographies, autobiographies, formal essays and short stories; shows students how to make denotative, symbolic, and connotative readings of a text; introduces both Old English and Middle English languages and literature to develop students' understanding of English language formation and development; prepares students for the higher level literary comprehension skills required in the upper grades.
- **Writing** develops students' understanding of sentence structure, providing hands-on experience with conjunctions, transitions, clauses, and common sentence errors; teaches language histories and etymologies to help students build on knowledge of word structures, including topics like prefixes, roots, and suffixes; expands on students' vocabulary and spelling skills; gives students the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing business letters, friendly letters, informal essays, and basic literature analyses.
- **Speaking** offers students experience in delivering oral reports; teaches skills that enable students to become effective speakers and communicators, weaving these skills together throughout the course.
- **Listening** teaches effective listening comprehension skills, weaving these together throughout the lessons; builds upon students' study skills, as well as helping them become reliable and efficient note-takers.

### Curriculum Contents

#### Reading Comprehension Skills

- Analysis of Propaganda
- Denotation, Connotation, and Symbolism
- Elements of Narrative Prose
- Following Directions
- Reading Formal Essays
- Reading Skills—Fact vs. Opinion, Validity, and Authority

#### Composition

- Essay/Report—Structure and Process
- Paragraph Elements and Structure
- Writing Formal and Informal Essays
- Writing Paragraphs
- Writing Summaries and Paraphrases
- Writing a Short Story
- Writing Business Letters

#### Grammar and Usage

- Conjunctions—Subordinating, Correlative, and Coordinating
- Clauses—Adjective, Adverb, and Dependent/Independent
- Capitalization
- Grammar Errors—Sentence Construction Errors
- Introductory Expressions—Interjections, Participle Phrases, and Adverb Clauses
- Parts of Speech—Nouns, Verbs, Pronouns, Adverbs, Adjectives, and Interjections
- Punctuation—Apostrophes, Hyphens, Italics, Commas, and End Punctuation
- Sentence Structure—Tense, Number, Person, and Transitions

#### Literature Studies

- Nonfiction—Biography and Autobiography
- Survey of English Literature—Old and Middle English
- Poetry—Elements and Interpretation
- Novel—Definition and Types
- Drama—History, Elements, and Types
- Short Story—Structure, Elements, and Techniques

#### Speaking and Listening

- Direct/Indirect Communication
- Following Instructions
- Listening Skills—Strategies, Comprehension, and Note-Taking
- Nonverbal Communication
- Oral Report
- Speaking Skills—Purpose, Organization, and Delivery

#### Special Topics

- Diacritical Marks
- English Variations
- Etymology
- Media Comprehension
- Note-taking
- Origin/Development of Language—Indo-European, Old and Middle English, and American English
- Use of Reference Materials

#### Literature List

The literary works students will encounter in Language Arts 800 include, but are not limited to:

##### Fiction

- Stockton, Frank R.
  - "The Lady or the Tiger?"
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel.
  - "The Birthmark"
- de Maupassant, Guy.
  - "The Piece of String"
- Bierce, Ambrose.
  - "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"
- Jacobs, W. W.
  - "The Monkey's Paw"
- Kipling, Rudyard.
  - "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi"
  - "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin"

##### Nonfiction

- Paine, Thomas.
  - "The Crisis" (excerpt)
- Keller, Helen.
  - *The Story of My Life* (excerpt)

##### Poetry

- Tennyson, Lord Alfred.
  - "The Charge of the Light Brigade"

Unit 1: Strategies for Reading and Writing	
Assignments	
1. Course Overview 2. Unlocking Word Meaning 3. Categorizing Words 4. Learning Morphemes  6. Using the Dictionary and Diacritical Marks 7. Using a Thesaurus 8. Context Clues and Sequence 9. Project: Reading Unfamiliar Words 10. Quiz 1: Improving Your Reading 11. Using Language Appropriately 12. Avoiding the Double Negative 13. Words 14. Usage	15. Sentences 16. Paragraphs 17. Compositions 18. Project: Writing a Composition 19. Quiz 2: Writing Conventions and Strategies 20. Developing Listening Skills 21. Speaking Effectively 22. Quiz 3: Speaking and Listening 23. Special Project* 24. Review 25. Test 26. Alternate Test* 27. Glossary and Credits

Unit 2: Mechanics and the Sentence	
Assignments	
1. Ending a Thought 2. Linking Ideas 3. Interrupting a Thought 4. Following an Introduction 5. Quiz 1: Punctuation 6. Punctuation: The Apostrophe 7. Punctuation: The Hyphen 8. Punctuation: Quotation Marks 9. Punctuation: Parentheses and Italics 10. Capitalization 11. Quiz 2: Punctuation and Capitalization	12. Coordination in Sentences (1) 13. Coordination in Sentences (2) 14. Subordination in Sentences (1) 15. Subordination in Sentences (2) 16. Quiz 3: Coordination and Subordination 17. Special Project* 18. Review 19. Test 20. Alternate Test* 21. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: History of Language and Modern Grammar	
Assignments	
1. The Development of Language 2. History of Language and Grammar 3. The Indo-European Family 4. Quiz 1: Language Changes 5. The Old English Period 6. Language and Literature of the Old English Period 7. Middle English 8. Essay: Tracing Language Changes* 9. Report: Geoffrey Chaucer 10. Quiz 2: Forming the English Language 11. Nouns	12. Pronouns 13. Verbs 14. Modifiers 15. Essay: Parts of Speech 16. Quiz 3: Modern English Grammar 17. Special Project* 18. Review 19. Test 20. Alternate Test* 21. Glossary and Credits

Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	<b>Unit 4: Exposition: The Formal Essay</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reading: The Formal Essay</li> <li>2. Essay: Summarizing a Formal Essay</li> <li>3. Analyzing a Formal Essay</li> <li>4. Report: Analyzing a Formal Magazine Essay</li> <li>5. Project: Analyzing a Historical Formal Essay</li> <li>6. Quiz 1: Reading a Formal Essay</li> <li>7. Choosing a Topic and Writing a Thesis Statement</li> <li>8. Documentation</li> <li>9. Writing the Introduction</li> <li>10. Report: Thesis Statement</li> <li>11. Writing the Body</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Writing the Conclusion</li> <li>13. Proofreading</li> <li>14. Project: Formal Essay</li> <li>15. Project: Peer Evaluation</li> <li>16. Quiz 2: Writing a Formal Essay</li> <li>17. Special Project*</li> <li>18. Review</li> <li>19. Test</li> <li>20. Alternate Test*</li> <li>21. Glossary and Credits</li> </ol>

Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	<b>Unit 5: Persuasion</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convincing Others</li> <li>2. Distinguishing Fact vs. Opinion</li> <li>3. Reading the News</li> <li>4. Analyzing the Author's Credentials</li> <li>5. Quiz 1: Persuasion</li> <li>6. Propaganda Techniques</li> <li>7. Identifying Slanted News and Evaluating Statistics</li> <li>8. Evaluating Sources of Information</li> <li>9. Project: Truth and Propaganda</li> <li>10. Project: Researching to Persuade</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Quiz 2: Propaganda</li> <li>12. Persuasion: Spoken Factors</li> <li>13. Persuasion: Unspoken Factors</li> <li>14. Listening to Persuasion</li> <li>15. Quiz 3: Persuasion</li> <li>16. Special Project*</li> <li>17. Review</li> <li>18. Test</li> <li>19. Alternate Test*</li> <li>20. Glossary and Credits</li> </ol>

Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	<b>Unit 6: The Power of Words</b>	
	<b>Assignments</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finding the Main Idea</li> <li>2. Word Choice</li> <li>3. Being a Good Listener</li> <li>4. Following Directions</li> <li>5. Finding Literal Meaning</li> <li>6. Listening for Implied and Figurative Meaning</li> <li>7. Speaking Qualities</li> <li>8. Project: Active Listening</li> <li>9. Quiz 1: Verbal Messages</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Nonverbal Cues</li> <li>11. Nonverbal Communication</li> <li>12. Project: Identifying Nonverbal Cues</li> <li>13. Quiz 2: Nonverbal Messages</li> <li>14. Special Project*</li> <li>15. Review</li> <li>16. Test</li> <li>17. Alternate Test*</li> <li>18. Glossary and Credits</li> </ol>

Unit 7: Short Stories		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	1. Characters: "The Birthmark"	13. Project: Prewriting Setting, Mood, Tone, and Theme
	2. The Narrator's Story: "The Piece of String"	14. Quiz 3: The Author's Story: Setting, Mood, Tone, Symbolism, and Theme
	3. Project: Characters and Point of View	15. Project: Writing the Short Story
	4. Quiz 1: The Author's Craft: Characterization & Point of View	16. Project: Peer Editing
	5. Plot: "The Lady or the Tiger?"	17. Publish It
	6. Storytelling: "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"	18. Project: Final Story
	7. Conflict: "The Monkey's Paw"	19. Quiz 4: Putting It All Together
	8. Project: Prewriting the Plot	20. Special Project*
	9. Quiz 2: The Author's Story: Plot & Conflict	21. Review
	10. Setting: "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin"	22. Test
	11. Mood and Tone: "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi"	23. Alternate Test*
	12. Theme and Symbolism: "The Gift of the Magi"	24. Glossary and Credits

Unit 8: Nonfiction Literature		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	1. Biographies	10. Project: Autobiography Technique
	2. Autobiographies	11. Essay: Response to Helen Keller's Autobiography
	3. Poetry vs. Prose	12. Quiz 2: Helen Keller
	4. Essay: Special Day	13. Special Project*
	5. Essay: Using Connotations	14. Review
	6. Quiz 1: Nonfiction Genres	15. Test
	7. Narration and Point of View	16. Alternate Test*
	8. Helen Keller (1)	17. Glossary and Credits
	9. Helen Keller (2)	

Unit 9: Functional Texts and Reading Strategies		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	1. Functional Texts	9. Report: Summarizing
	2. Professional Texts	10. Navigating Organizational Patterns
	3. Project: Business Letter and Memo	11. Quiz 2: Reading Strategies
	4. Quiz 1: Functional and Professional Texts	12. Special Project*
	5. Reading Strategies	13. Review
	6. Finding the Main Idea	14. Test
	7. Being an Active Reader	15. Alternate Test*
	8. Project: Paraphrasing	16. Glossary and Credits

Unit 10: Sampling Literature		
Assignments		
Language Arts 800 Fundamentals	1. Reading for Meaning	11. The History of Drama
	2. Reading and Experiencing Poetry	12. Elements of Drama
	3. Interpreting Poetry	13. Essay: Play Review*
	4. Project: Summarizing and Paraphrasing	14. Quiz 3: Drama
	5. Quiz 1: Reading for Meaning and Poetry	15. Special Project*
	6. Short Story Elements	16. Review
	7. Essay: Short Story Response	17. Test
	8. The Novel	18. Alternate Test*
	9. Report: History of the Novel	19. Glossary and Credits
	10. Quiz 2: Fiction	