

Middle School English for grades 6-9*

Western Civilization Literature and Composition

Tuition: \$45 per month (August – April)

This comprehensive middle school English course will study literature primarily relating to the western civilization from the Middle Ages and Renaissance up through the early 18th century. We will study the historical and cultural settings in which they were written, the purposes for which they were written, and the lives of the authors. Each week the student will read, answer study guide questions, and do occasional worksheets. The composition portion will cover concepts of IEW incorporating reports and creative writing relating to our reading. There will be two tests per semester.

Course Objectives:

- * Introduce students to quality, classic, age-appropriate literature
- * Learn the process for putting together well-structured compositions
- * Learn the skill of taking notes from lecture
- * Acquire various broadly applicable academic and organizational skills
- * Practice the essential life skills of following instructions and being responsible for one's own tasks
- * Prepare students for their next level of education

Supply List:

- * Three ring binder, 1 ½ to 2 inch thick
- * One set of 6 tab dividers
- * Loose leaf paper
- * 1 ream of white copy paper (at home)

Other requirements: internet access, e-mail, word processing, library access, working printer

Required Books: Unless stated, any edition will do, including ebook, as long as it is the original language and length (**no abridged versions**) Teacher has some to loan, just ask.

The Door in the Wall (Marguerite de Angeli)
Crispin: The Cross of Lead (Avi)
The Samurai's Tale (Erik C. Haugaard)
The Shakespeare Stealer (Gary Blackwood)
The Ravenmaster's Secret (Elvira Woodruff)
Various European Fairy Tales (online)

Teacher: Angela Griffin
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* Age range for Middle School English is 11-14 on first day of class.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is my student ready for Middle School English?

Your student is ready for the class if they can do the following:

- * read at a 5th grade level
- * identify the parts of speech
- * recognize the difference between a sentence and a fragment
- * follow multi-step instructions
- * manage the weekly workload of a multi-part class

If they don't have the above skills yet, it doesn't mean they can't take the class. It means that the homeschool parent(s) will need to step in to work with the student at home during the week, both in academic skills and/or organizational skills. I can help parents facilitate that if requested.

2. Is Middle School English hard?

MS English is not hard; however, it is a lot of work. A student, possibly with parental help, needs to be able to

- * keep track of what is due and when it's due (a syllabus will be provided)
- * break down the week's assignment into manageable pieces
- * be responsible for turning in work completely, correctly, and on time
- * keep an organized binder – there is a LOT of paper instructions, samples, examples, and notes given. Lack of organization is the #1 reason some students struggle in MS English.

3. Does my student need to work on their own?

Yes, but...

While I do not allow students to share the workload, answers, etc., I would encourage students to study together for exams when possible, and I believe at the middle school level it's essential for parents to step in and work with their student to shore up any holes in their academic knowledge or to manage the workload. Looking at your student's graded work each week when they bring it home and regularly checking Gradebookwizard can help you assess how much help your student needs at home. And you can always ask me.