

Orange Unified School District
Creative Writing
El Rancho Charter Only
Year Course

Grade Level: 7 and 8 (Elective)

Prerequisites: Not with concurrent enrollment in the Language! program. Student's previous year English grade must have been a C- or higher.

Introduction to the subject:

Creative Writing is designed for 7th and 8th grade students. It will focus on the various writing techniques and styles within the creative writing field. Some writing styles covered include poetry, creative non-fiction, playwriting/screenwriting, satires/parodies, folktales, model telling, and story-within-a-story. Specific techniques addressed will include point-of-view, setting, extended comparisons, opposites, active verbs, compare/contrast, and symbolism. The class will lead students in the process of brainstorming and developing creative concepts through various writing techniques. Students will create a portfolio of varied, personal work. A heavy requirement of writing and reading will be necessary for this class.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

Create and develop story ideas:

Using various techniques such as spontaneous word association, spatial concepts, listen and imagine, inspiration, and research as well as others, students will learn to discover and develop ideas into full creative works. Students will analyze their writing process and experiment with the individuality based on need. They will articulate the creative choices made based on purpose and theme of story.

Create a portfolio of varied, personal work:

Students will create a large body of written work following various forms of creative writing. Some examples of written styles include, but are not limited to, poetry, creative non-fiction, journals, playwriting/screenwriting, satires/parodies, folktales, model telling, and story-within-a-story.

Understand and use published writing:

By reading a large variety of written work from published authors in the various styles, students will not only model work from these authors, but appropriately break down the

writer's purpose of style, theme, meaning, and pattern. This understanding will be used to develop personal ideas and enhance the student's work.

Understand and use literary techniques:

Many common and useful literary techniques will be clearly explained, interpreted and modeled. Some examples of terms and techniques to be used and developed in class include but are not limited to point-of-view, setting, comparisons, opposites, active verbs, and symbolism.

Critique and enhance personal work:

Using the student's created portfolio, students will regularly learn rewriting strategies for story enhancement. Students will have personal meetings with the instructor on specific strengths and weaknesses in writing. Twice during the year a full, exploratory rewrite will occur with stories of the student's choosing.

Gain an appreciation for the shared story:

Each student will, during the course of the year, share excerpts from his/her personal portfolio in a public reading setting.

Course Overview and Approximate Unit Time Allotments

| | <u>Weeks</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|
| I. Poetry | Quarter 1 |
| a. Couplets | |
| b. Sonnets | |
| c. Villanelles | |
| d. Haiku | |
| e. Open | |
| f. Ballad | |
| g. Verse | |
| h. Ode | |
| i. Poetry Terms | |
| II. Satires/Parodies | Quarter 1 |
| a. style | |
| b. comedy | |
| c. drama | |
| III. Folktales | Quarter 1 |
| a. African | |
| b. American | |
| c. Latin American | |
| d. Modern | |
| e. Classic | |

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| IV. | Playwriting/Screenwriting | Quarter 2 |
| | a. comedy | |
| | b. drama | |
| | c. action | |
| | d. fantasy | |
| V. | Creative Non-Fiction/Essays | Quarter 2 |
| | a. research strategies | |
| | b. comedy | |
| | c. period pieces | |
| | d. sarcasm | |
| | e. elaboration | |
| VI. | Rewrite Strategies/Steeplechase | Quarter 2 |
| | a. selection of material | |
| | b. point-of-view | |
| | c. setting | |
| | d. tone | |
| | e. mood | |
| | f. voice | |
| VII. | Story within a Story | Quarter 3 |
| | a. meaning | |
| | b. intent | |
| | c. use of the writer | |
| VIII. | Letter Form/Journals | Quarter 3 |
| | a. subtlety | |
| | b. imply/infer | |
| | c. character development | |
| | d. audience | |
| | e. impulse | |
| | f. stream of consciousness | |
| IX. | How it Happens | Quarter 3 |
| | a. subjects/principles | |
| | b. perception/expression | |
| | c. patterns | |
| X. | Model Telling | Quarter 4 |
| | a. how it happens connection | |
| | b. key words | |
| | c. situational uses | |

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| XI. | Potpourri | Quarter 4 |
| | a. analysis of all styles | |
| | b. review and discussion of strategies | |
| XII. | Rewrite Strategies/Steeplechase | Quarter 4 |
| | a. selection of material | |
| | b. point-of-view | |
| | c. setting | |
| | d. tone | |
| | e. mood | |
| | f. voice | |
| XIII. | Literature Terms | Ongoing |
| | a. audience | |
| | b. symbolism | |
| | c. setting | |
| | d. point-of-view | |
| | e. metaphor/simile | |
| | f. juxtaposition | |
| | g. antagonist/protagonist | |
| | h. tone/mood | |
| | i. voice | |