



**Switched-On**  
SCHOOLHOUSE

# Course Catalog

Language Arts 800

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

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 how to analyze propaganda and other forms of writing, including biographies, autobiographies, formal essays, and informal essays; 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 Written Directions
- Reading Formal and Informal Essays
- Reading Skills—Fact versus Opinion, Validity, and Authority

#### *Composition*

- Essay/Report—Structure and Process
- Paragraph Elements and Structure
- Writing Informal Essays
- Writing Paragraphs
- Writing Business and Friendly 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
- Levels of Language Use—Standard/Nonstandard
- 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

*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

*Spelling*

- Affixes
- Homonyms
- Borrowed Words
- Confused Spellings
- Silent Letters
- Words with “ei” and “ie”
- Words with “-ize,” “-yze,” “-ise,” “-ent,” “-ant,” “-ance,” “-ence,” “-able,” and “-ible” Endings

*Vocabulary Building*

- Confusing Words
- Connotation/Denotation
- Dictionary Skills
- Etymology
- Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes
- Word Categorization
- Word Relationships

*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

UNIT 1: COMMUNICATION				
LANGUAGE ARTS 800	<b>Assignment Titles</b>			
	1.	Course Overview	15.	Suffixes Change the Spelling of Roots
	2.	Documentation	16.	Spelling Lesson 2: General
	3.	Improving Your Reading: Using Word Parts	17.	Quiz 2: Cumulative
	4.	Inflections Add Grammatical Meaning	18.	Spelling Quiz 2
	5.	Word Roots from Latin and Greek	19.	Communication Without Words
	6.	Categorizing Words and Analogies	20.	Direct Nonverbal Communication
	7.	Book Report: Pre-1900 Novel*	21.	Spelling Lesson 3: Affixes
	8.	Spelling Lesson 1: Using ie and ei	22.	Quiz 3: Communicating Without Words
	9.	Quiz 1: Word Parts/Categories/Analogies	23.	Spelling Quiz 3
	10.	Spelling Quiz 1	24.	Unit 1 Special Project*
	11.	Following Directions	25.	Test
	12.	Project: Directions*	26.	Alternate Test*
	13.	Project: Writing Directions from a Prompt*	27.	Reference
14.	Essay: Write a Technical Document Giving Directions			

UNIT 2: DEVELOPMENT AND USAGE OF ENGLISH				
LANGUAGE ARTS 800	<b>Assignment Titles</b>			
	1.	Development of Language: Origins and Dialects	13.	Spelling Lesson 2: General
	2.	The Indo-European Family	14.	Quiz 2: Classification of Words
	3.	Spelling Lesson 1: General/Content Area	15.	Spelling Quiz 2
	4.	Quiz 1: History of the English Language	16.	Adjectives and Adjective Phrases
	5.	Spelling Quiz 1	17.	Adverbs and Adverb Phrases
	6.	Word Classes--Nouns	18.	Book Report: Short Story*
	7.	Personal and Possessive Pronouns	19.	Spelling Lesson 3: Adjectives and Adverbs
	8.	Other Kinds of Pronouns	20.	Quiz 3: Cumulative
	9.	Verbs	21.	Spelling Quiz 3
	10.	Adjectives and Adverbs	22.	Unit 2 Special Project*
	11.	Project: Descriptive Paragraph	23.	Test
12.	Essay: Writing About an Event	24.	Alternate Test*	
		25.	Reference	

UNIT 3: PUNCTUATION AND LITERATURE				
LANGUAGE ARTS 800	<b>Assignment Titles</b>			
	1.	Ending a Thought: End Punctuation	13.	Spelling Quiz 2
	2.	Using Punctuation to Link Clauses	14.	The Informal Essay
	3.	Interrupting a Thought	15.	The Anecdote
	4.	Following an Introduction	16.	Essay: Informal Essay
	5.	Spelling Lesson 1: -ant and -ent Endings	17.	Spelling Lesson 3: -able, -ible
	6.	Quiz 1: Punctuation	18.	Quiz 3: Punctuation and Essays
	7.	Spelling Quiz 1	19.	Spelling Quiz 3
	8.	The Formal Essay	20.	Unit 3 Special Project*
	9.	Analyzing a Formal Essay	21.	Test
	10.	Project: Analysis of an Essay	22.	Alternate Test*
	11.	Spelling Lesson 2: -ise, -ize, -yze	23.	Reference
12.	Quiz 2: Punctuation/The Formal Essay			

UNIT 4: WORDS AND HOW TO USE THEM				
LANGUAGE ARTS 800	<b>Assignment Titles</b>			
	1.	Spelling Lesson 1: Develop Spelling Sense	10.	Confusing Words
	2.	Spelling Quiz 1	11.	Quiz 2: Using Words Correctly
	3.	Using the Dictionary	12.	Spelling Lesson 3: General
	4.	Diacritical Marks	13.	Spelling Quiz 3
	5.	Using a Thesaurus	14.	Project: Book Report: Post-1900 Novel*
	6.	Quiz 1: Understanding Words (Dictionary and Thesaurus Skills)	15.	Unit 4 Special Project*
	7.	Spelling Lesson 2: General and Homonyms	16.	Test
	8.	Spelling Quiz 2	17.	Alternate Test*
9.	Standard and Nonstandard Usage	18.	Reference	

## UNIT 5: CORRECT LANGUAGE USAGE

LANGUAGE ARTS 800

## Assignment Titles

1.	The Apostrophe	16.	Spelling Lesson 2: Content Words
2.	The Hyphen	17.	Quiz 2: Punctuation, Usage, and Spoken Language
3.	Quotation Marks	18.	Spelling Quiz 2
4.	Parentheses and Italics	19.	Review of Homonyms, Synonyms and Antonyms
5.	Capitalization	20.	Vocabulary Development: Word Pairs
6.	Essay: Choice of Topic	21.	Spelling Lesson 3: Difficult Word Pairs
7.	Abbreviations and Acronyms	22.	Quiz 3: Correct Usage
8.	Numbers and Figures	23.	Spelling Quiz 3
9.	Spelling Lesson 1: General and Content Words	24.	Unit 5 Special Project*
10.	Quiz 1: Written Language	25.	Test
11.	Spelling Quiz 1	26.	Alternate Test*
12.	Spoken Language: Biblical Standards	27.	Reference
13.	Project: Biblical Speech		
14.	Speaking Qualities		
15.	Project: Speech		

## UNIT 6: LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

LANGUAGE ARTS 800

## Assignment Titles

1.	The Old English Period	14.	Quiz 2: The Construction of Sentences
2.	The Old English Language and Literature	15.	Spelling Quiz 2
3.	Report: Anglo-Saxon Culture/Literature	16.	The Elements of Autobiography
4.	Middle English	17.	Autobiographical Excerpt: Jesse Stuart
5.	Report: Geoffrey Chaucer	18.	Autobiographical Excerpt: Admiral Byrd
6.	Spelling Lesson 1: -ance, -ence, -ense	19.	Essay: Autobiography
7.	Quiz 1: The History of the English Language	20.	Spelling Lesson 3: Vocabulary Words
8.	Spelling Quiz 1	21.	Quiz 3: Cumulative
9.	Coordinating Conjunctions	22.	Spelling Quiz 3
10.	Correlative Conjunctions/Conjunctive Adverbs	23.	Project: Book Report: Biography*
11.	Subordinating Conjunctions/Adverb Clauses	24.	Unit 6 Special Project*
12.	Relative Pronouns/Adjective Clauses; Phrases and Appositives	25.	Test
13.	Spelling Lesson 2: Mispronounced Words	26.	Alternate Test*
		27.	Reference

## UNIT 7: CRITICAL READING AND PARAGRAPH SKILLS

LANGUAGE ARTS 800

## Assignment Titles

1.	Critical Reading: Symbolism/Connotation	15.	Spelling Quiz 2
2.	Critical Reading: Context/Directive Language	16.	Writing a Composition: The Introduction
3.	Analyzing an Author's Credentials/Argument	17.	Essay: Thesis Statement*
4.	Propaganda	18.	Writing a Composition: The Body
5.	Spelling Lesson 1: Silent Letters	19.	Writing a Composition: The Conclusion
6.	Quiz 1: Critical Reading	20.	Writing a Composition: Proofreading
7.	Spelling Quiz 1	21.	Essay: Analyzing an Argument
8.	Paragraph Structure	22.	Spelling Lesson 3: Unaccented Syllables
9.	Essay: Paragraph Types	23.	Quiz 3: Cumulative
10.	Organizing a Unified Paragraph	24.	Spelling Quiz 3
11.	Paragraph Coherence/Transition Methods	25.	Unit 7 Special Project*
12.	Essay: Paragraph Development	26.	Test
13.	Spelling Lesson 2: Silent Letters	27.	Alternate Test*
14.	Quiz 2: The Paragraph	28.	Reference

## UNIT 8: WRITING, LISTENING, AND READING

LANGUAGE ARTS 800

## Assignment Titles

1.	Writing Business Letters	18.	Quiz 2: Listening Skills/Nonverbal Communication
2.	Three Types of Business Letters	19.	Spelling Quiz 2
3.	Project: Business Letters	20.	Distinguishing Between Fiction and Nonfiction
4.	Structure and Form of Personal Letters	21.	Evaluating the Reliability of Information
5.	Three Types of Personal Letters	22.	Report: Assessing Reliability
6.	Project: Personal Letters	23.	Sources of Information
7.	Spelling Lesson 1: General	24.	Reading the Newspaper
8.	Quiz 1: Writing Letters	25.	News Magazines/Other Nonfiction Resources
9.	Spelling Quiz 1	26.	Project: Newspaper Analysis
10.	Sound and Listening	27.	Spelling Lesson 3: General
11.	Listening for Literal Meaning	28.	Quiz 3: Cumulative
12.	Listening for Implied and Figurative Meaning	29.	Spelling Quiz 3
13.	Project: Figures of Speech	30.	Unit 8 Special Project*
14.	Identifying Nonverbal Clues	31.	Test
15.	Being a Good Listener	32.	Alternate Test*
16.	Project: Listening Skills	33.	Reference
17.	Spelling Lesson 2: General and Content Words		

## UNIT 9: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE ARTS 800

## Assignment Titles

1.	English is a Living Language	14.	Spelling Quiz 2
2.	Etymology of English Words	15.	Organizing an Oral Report
3.	English in the United States	16.	Developing an Oral Report
4.	Project: Slang	17.	Using Language Appropriately
5.	Spelling Lesson 1: General	18.	Effective Speaking Techniques
6.	Quiz 1: The Changing Language	19.	Project: Oral Report
7.	Spelling Quiz 1	20.	Spelling Lesson 3: Frequently Misspelled Words
8.	Double Negatives	21.	Quiz 3: Cumulative
9.	Dangling Modifiers	22.	Spelling Quiz 3
10.	Shift in Person and Number	23.	Unit 9 Special Project*
11.	Shift in Mood and Tense; S/V Agreement	24.	Test
12.	Spelling Lesson 2: General	25.	Alternate Test*
13.	Quiz 2: Grammar and History of English	26.	Reference

## UNIT 10: REVIEW

LANGUAGE ARTS 800

## Assignment Titles

1.	History of Language	19.	Review Quiz 2: Communication
2.	Grammar: Parts of Speech	20.	Review Spelling Lesson 3 and 4
3.	Punctuation and Capitalization	21.	Spelling Quiz 2
4.	Abbreviations, Apostrophes, and Hyphens	22.	Reading: Word Parts
5.	Dictionary and Thesaurus	23.	Reading: Context Clues and Sequence
6.	Standard English Usage	24.	Reading: Fact and Opinion, News Articles
7.	Common Sentence Errors	25.	Reading: Essays and Autobiographies
8.	Paragraphs	26.	Project: Analyze a Formal Essay
9.	Letters	27.	Report: Autobiography
10.	Compositions	28.	Review Quiz 3: Reading
11.	Essay: What Makes a Good Christian?	29.	Review Spelling Lesson 5 and 6
12.	Review Quiz 1: Language	30.	Essay: Short Story
13.	Review Spelling Lesson 1 and 2	31.	Spelling Quiz 3
14.	Spelling Quiz 1	32.	Unit 10 Special Project*
15.	Communication: Unspoken Factors	33.	Test
16.	Communication: Spoken Factors	34.	Alternate Test*
17.	Project: Interview a Friend	35.	Reference
18.	Following Directions and Listening		

(\*) Indicates alternate assignment