



**Switched-On**  
SCHOOLHOUSE

# Course Catalog

Language Arts 400

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

Language Arts 400 focuses 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**—introduces students to basic reading skills, including the identification of main ideas, supporting details, sequence, and facts and opinions; shows students how to identify parts of speech in sentences; develops students capacity for identifying basic elements of narrative prose; introduces students to types of nonfiction, including biographies, autobiographies, and short essays; helps students develop basic literary comprehension skills through the reading of short stories, nonfiction pieces, and poetry.
- **Writing**—develops student's understanding of sentence structure, providing hands-on experience with subject-verb agreement and parts of speech; emphasizes parts of speech and their roles, including adjectives, nouns, and verbs; familiarizes students with roots and affixes, and basic word relationships, including homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms; develops students' vocabulary and spelling skills; gives students the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing paragraphs, four-line poetry, and short stories; guides students through planning, organizing, writing, and revising a report.
- **Listening**—teaches effective listening comprehension skills, weaving these throughout the lessons.
- **Special Topics**—teaches basic research skills, including dictionary, encyclopedia, and safe Internet usage.

### Curriculum Contents

#### *Reading Comprehension Skills*

- Determining Cause and Effect
- Determining Author's Purpose—Reading for Entertainment and Reading for Information
- Identifying Facts and Opinions
- Identifying Main Ideas and Supporting Details
- Predicting Outcomes
- Reading Poetry
- Determining Reading Rates
- Reading Short Stories
- Reading for Sequence

#### *Composition*

- Book Report—Summary
- Paragraph Elements and Structure
- Paraphrasing Parables
- Writing Four Line Poetry
- Writing Friendly Letters and Invitations
- Writing Haiku
- Writing a Report—Outlining, Writing, and Revising
- Writing Short Stories—Narratives, Tall Tales, and Fables

*Grammar and Usage*

- Adjectives—Making Comparisons, Using Articles, and Changing Nouns to Adjectives
- Kinds of Sentences—Statement, Question, Command, and Surprise/Excitement
- Nouns—Singular and Plural, Possessive, Subjects, and Common and Proper Nouns
- Punctuation—Commas, Exclamation Points, Periods, Question Marks, Quotation Marks, and Apostrophes
- Sentence Structure—Subject-Verb Agreement
- Verbs—Being Verbs, Tense, and Contractions

*Literature Studies*

- Fiction
  - Definition—Short Story
  - Elements—Structure, Character, Plot, and Setting
  - Genre/Type—Allegory, Parable, Fable, and Tall Tale
- Nonfiction
  - Definition
  - Genre/Type—Autobiography, Biography, and Essay
  - Literary Device—Figures of Speech
- Poetry
  - Definition
  - Elements—Structure, Rhyme, Meter, Diction, and Mood
  - Haiku
  - Literary Device—Alliteration

*Speaking and Listening*

- Listening Skills—Following Directions

*Spelling*

- Abbreviations
- Compound Words
- Contractions
- Days of the Week
- Names of Months
- Homonyms, Synonyms and Antonyms
- Hyphenated Words
- Possessives
- Roots and Affixes
- Vowel Combinations
- Word Endings
- Words with Silent First Letters
- Words with Silent and Irregular Vowels

Vocabulary Building

- Dictionary Skills
- Word Relationships—Synonyms, Antonyms, and Homographs
- Word Structure—Roots and Affixes

Special Topics

- The Bible as Literature
- Origin/Development of Language
- Research Skills—Reference Materials, Library Skills, and the Internet
- Study Skills—Note Taking

UNIT 1: READING AND WRITING		
Assignment Titles		
LANGUAGE ARTS 400	1. Course Overview	14. Quiz 3
	2. Joey and the Sad Tree (Part One)	15. Spelling Quiz Three
	3. Sources of English Words	16. Writing a Report
	4. Spelling Lesson 1	17. Essay: Outline and Report
	5. Quiz 1	18. Spelling Lesson 4: Vowel Combinations
	6. Spelling Quiz One	19. Quiz 4
	7. Joey and the Sad Tree (Part Two)	20. Spelling Quiz Four
	8. Reading Fluency	21. Unit 1 Special Project*
	9. Spelling Lesson 2: R-controlled Vowels	22. Review Game
	10. Quiz 2	23. Test
	11. Spelling Quiz Two	24. Alternate Test*
	12. Study Skills	25. Reference
	13. Spelling Lesson 3: The Vowel O	

UNIT 2: READING FOR MEANING		
Assignment Titles		
LANGUAGE ARTS 400	1. Kippy the Kiwi	13. Haiku Poems
	2. Essay: Envyng Others	14. Haiku Poetry Composition
	3. Sound Study	15. Project: Book Report--Haiku Poetry*
	4. Following Instructions	16. Spelling Lesson 3: Suffixes
	5. Spelling Lesson 1: Suffixes	17. Quiz 3
	6. Quiz 1	18. Spelling Quiz Three
	7. Spelling Quiz One	19. Unit 2 Special Project*
	8. Greedy, Selfish, and Honor	20. Review Game
	9. Dictionary Skills	21. Test
	10. Spelling Lesson 2	22. Alternate Test*
	11. Quiz 2	23. Reference
	12. Spelling Quiz Two	

UNIT 3: WORD PLAY		
Assignment Titles		
LANGUAGE ARTS 400	1. Why William Was Thankful	14. Spelling Lesson 3: Synonyms
	2. Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes (1)	15. Quiz 3
	3. Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes (2)	16. Spelling Quiz Three
	4. Spelling Lesson 1	17. More About Poetry
	5. Quiz 1	18. Project: Book Report—Poetry*
	6. Spelling Quiz One	19. Spelling Lesson 4: Antonyms
	7. Candy Bars	20. Quiz 4
	8. Homonyms	21. Spelling Quiz Four
	9. Spelling Lesson 2: Homonyms	22. Unit 3 Special Project*
	10. Quiz 2	23. Review Game
	11. Spelling Quiz Two	24. Test
	12. Poetic Expressions	25. Alternate Test*
	13. Synonyms and Antonyms	26. Reference

## UNIT 4: WORDS IN SEASON

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

## Assignment Titles

- |                                               |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Heidi                                      | 16. Adverbs                            |
| 2. Nouns and Verbs                            | 17. Spelling Lesson 3: Adverbs         |
| 3. Adjectives                                 | 18. Quiz 3                             |
| 4. Adjectives That Compare                    | 19. Spelling Quiz Three                |
| 5. Possessive Words                           | 20. Writing Study Notes                |
| 6. Spelling Lesson 1: Possessive Pronouns     | 21. Subject-Verb Agreement; Verb Tense |
| 7. Quiz 1                                     | 22. Spelling Lesson 4                  |
| 8. Spelling Quiz One                          | 23. Quiz 4                             |
| 9. Fiction and Nonfiction                     | 24. Spelling Quiz Four                 |
| 10. Project: Book Report—Fiction*             | 25. Unit 4 Special Project*            |
| 11. Kinds of Sentences                        | 26. Review Game                        |
| 12. Spelling Lesson 2: Suffixes               | 27. Test                               |
| 13. Quiz 2                                    | 28. Alternate Test*                    |
| 14. Spelling Quiz Two                         | 29. Reference                          |
| 15. Following Directions; Writing Invitations |                                        |

## UNIT 5: READING AND WRITING STORIES

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

## Assignment Titles

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Reading Skills (1)              | 15. Quiz 3                                               |
| 2. Paragraphs                      | 16. Spelling Quiz Three                                  |
| 3. Essay: Writing Paragraphs       | 17. Writing Stories                                      |
| 4. Spelling Lesson 1: Prefixes     | 18. Essay: Writing a Story                               |
| 5. Quiz 1                          | 19. Spelling Lesson 4: Silent Letters and Unusual Vowels |
| 6. Spelling Quiz One               | 20. Quiz 4                                               |
| 7. Reading Skills (2)              | 21. Spelling Quiz Four                                   |
| 8. Capital Letters                 | 22. Unit 5 Special Project*                              |
| 9. Spelling Lesson 2: Contractions | 23. Review Game                                          |
| 10. Quiz 2                         | 24. Test                                                 |
| 11. Spelling Quiz Two              | 25. Alternate Test*                                      |
| 12. The Hobby of Stamp Collecting  | 26. Reference                                            |
| 13. Punctuation Marks              |                                                          |
| 14. Spelling Lesson 3: Prefixes    |                                                          |

## UNIT 6: RHYMES AND REPORTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

## Assignment Titles

- |                                                |                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Fact and Opinion                            | 14. Characteristics of Poetry                             |
| 2. Book Reports                                | 15. Analyzing Poetry                                      |
| 3. Essay: Writing a Summary                    | 16. Essay: Four Line Poem                                 |
| 4. Project: Book Report: Nonfiction*           | 17. Spelling Lesson 3: Days of the Week; Hyphenated Words |
| 5. Spelling Lesson 1: Months and Abbreviations | 18. Quiz 3                                                |
| 6. Quiz 1                                      | 19. Spelling Quiz Three                                   |
| 7. Spelling Quiz One                           | 20. Unit 6 Special Project*                               |
| 8. Following Directions in Parables and Fables | 21. Review Game                                           |
| 9. Essay: Paraphrasing Parables                | 22. Test                                                  |
| 10. Spelling Lesson 2: Suffixes                | 23. Alternate Test*                                       |
| 11. Quiz 2                                     | 24. Reference                                             |
| 12. Spelling Quiz Two                          |                                                           |
| 13. Poetry Review                              |                                                           |

**UNIT 7: FORMS OF LITERATURE**

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

**Assignment Titles**

- |                                                  |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Biography                                     | 14. Tall Tales                                       |
| 2. Project: Book Report—Biography*               | 15. Essay: Tall Tale                                 |
| 3. Exploring Nouns                               | 16. Project: Book Report: Folk Tales*                |
| 4. Exploring Singular and Plural Nouns           | 17. Exploring Verbs (2)                              |
| 5. Spelling Lesson 1: Two-Syllable Words         | 18. Spelling Lesson 3: More Words With Two Syllables |
| 6. Quiz 1                                        | 19. Quiz 3                                           |
| 7. Spelling Quiz One                             | 20. Spelling Quiz Three                              |
| 8. Fables                                        | 21. Unit 7 Special Project*                          |
| 9. Essay: Writing a Fable                        | 22. Review Game                                      |
| 10. Exploring Verbs                              | 23. Test                                             |
| 11. Spelling Lesson 2: Words with Open Syllables | 24. Alternate Test*                                  |
| 12. Quiz 2                                       | 25. Reference                                        |
| 13. Spelling Quiz Two                            |                                                      |

**UNIT 8: LANGUAGE IN LITERATURE**

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

**Assignment Titles**

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|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Reading (1)--On the Farm               | 14. Figurative Language                                             |
| 2. Adjectives                             | 15. Paragraph Writing                                               |
| 3. Spelling Lesson 1: CVR/VC Words        | 16. Essay: Narrative Writing                                        |
| 4. Quiz 1                                 | 17. Essay: Descriptive Paragraph*                                   |
| 5. Spelling Quiz One                      | 18. Spelling Lesson 3: Silent Letters; Compound Words with Suffixes |
| 6. Reading: The Power of God's Word       | 19. Quiz 3                                                          |
| 7. Adjectives That Compare                | 20. Spelling Quiz Three                                             |
| 8. Adverbs                                | 21. Unit 8 Special Project*                                         |
| 9. Spelling Lesson 2: Words with Digraphs | 22. Review Game                                                     |
| 10. Quiz 2                                | 23. Test                                                            |
| 11. Spelling Quiz Two                     | 24. Alternate Test*                                                 |
| 12. Reading: The Early Olympic Games      | 25. Reference                                                       |
| 13. Essay: The Olympic Games*             |                                                                     |

**UNIT 9: READING AND RESEARCHING**

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

**Assignment Titles**

- |                                               |                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Reasons for Reading                        | 15. Finding Information                      |
| 2. Reading Skills (1)                         | 16. Taking Notes and Making an Outline       |
| 3. Project: The Navajo*                       | 17. Project: Report Part One                 |
| 4. Spelling Lesson 1: Words that End with -le | 18. Writing a Report                         |
| 5. Quiz 1                                     | 19. Project: Report Part Two                 |
| 6. Spelling Quiz One                          | 20. Project: Report Part Three               |
| 7. A Little Salt, Please                      | 21. Spelling Lesson 3: Prefixes and Suffixes |
| 8. Reading Skills (2)                         | 22. Quiz 3                                   |
| 9. Project: Salt in the Bible*                | 23. Spelling Quiz Three                      |
| 10. Project: Book Report--Historical Fiction* | 24. Unit 9 Special Project*                  |
| 11. Spelling Lesson 2: Two Syllable Words     | 25. Review Game                              |
| 12. Quiz 2                                    | 26. Test                                     |
| 13. Spelling Quiz Two                         | 27. Alternate Test*                          |
| 14. Planning a Report                         | 28. Reference                                |

## UNIT 10: REVIEW

LANGUAGE ARTS 400

## Assignment Titles

- |     |                                             |     |                                                |
|-----|---------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Lost (Parts One and Two)                    | 12. | Quiz 3                                         |
| 2.  | Thinking About What You Read                | 13. | Essay: Narrative or Descriptive Writing Review |
| 3.  | Quiz 1                                      | 14. | Essay: Writing a Letter Review*                |
| 4.  | Using a Dictionary                          | 15. | Report: Book Report*                           |
| 5.  | Working With Nouns, Adjectives, and Adverbs | 16. | Report: Writing a Report Review*               |
| 6.  | Verbs of Action or Being                    | 17. | Unit 10 Special Project*                       |
| 7.  | Word Parts and Word Play                    | 18. | Review Game                                    |
| 8.  | Punctuating Correctly                       | 19. | Test                                           |
| 9.  | Quiz 2                                      | 20. | Alternate Test*                                |
| 10. | Study Skills and Note Taking                | 21. | Reference                                      |
| 11. | Recognizing Literary Forms                  |     |                                                |

(\*) Indicates alternate assignment