

Language Arts Curriculum Overview

In the Language Arts class at Nature's Way, students learn fundamental concepts pertaining to literacy, composition, and grammar conventions. Students explore literature in book groups, learn how to structure various forms of writing, and refine literary analysis. Language Arts allows each student the opportunity to discuss ideas openly and use multiple ways to study and share topics of interest. The program also provides opportunities for individual study of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. The goal for Language Arts is to orient adolescents to the wide world of language and spark an interest in being a participant in this world.

Language Arts has five core areas of emphasis:

Core Area of Emphasis	Media and Manner of Study
1) Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Book groups-Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)-Summer reading activities-Seminar readings-Various texts and assignments
2) Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Paragraph and essay structure-Exploring the writing process-Creative expression with poetry and fiction-Various forms (journalism, letters, literary analysis, research papers)
3) Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Individualized assessment-Specific activities to learn concepts-Daily grammar practice-Grammar workshops
4) Spelling and Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Weekly spelling or vocabulary assessment-Differentiated and individualized spelling study-Vocabulary acquisition through context and root word activities
5) Discussion and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Group analysis of texts-Seminar discussions-Sharing of SSR main ideas-Peer revision and editing of papers-Presentations and public speaking-Grammar workshops-Daily grammar practice

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Book Group: During each cycle of study, students read a novel or non-fiction book together. Students meet to share ideas and analysis of the text. Book group is a time to investigate elements of literature, including plot and character development, themes, and style, as well.

Although book selections vary from year to year, below is a list of past and potential selections:

-A Girl Named Disaster *-Hunger Games* *-Black Like Me*
-Life of Pi *-To Kill a Mockingbird* *-Animal Farm*
-The Diary of Anne Frank *-Maus II* *-Macbeth*
-Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. *-Just Mercy*
-And Then There Were None *-The Firefly Diaries*

The following genres comprise the literature curriculum:

-Mystery -Historical and Realistic Fiction -Poetry
-Memoir and Autobiography -Drama -Speculative Fiction
-Short Story -Local Color (Southern writers; Appalachian Lit.)
-Mythology -Folklore

Forms of Writing: Students at Nature's Way experience a wide array of writing forms and styles. In Language Arts, each cycle in the academic year revolves around a type of writing and related texts. Often these forms of writing correspond to topics of study in the Humanities and Science Occupations courses.

The following forms comprise the writing curriculum:

-Research Paper in MLA -Poetry -Short Story/Narrative
-Journalism -Persuasive Essay -Descriptive Writing
-Drama -Letters and Email -Reflective Journal
-Summary and Report -Book Review -Literary Essay