

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
Syllabus

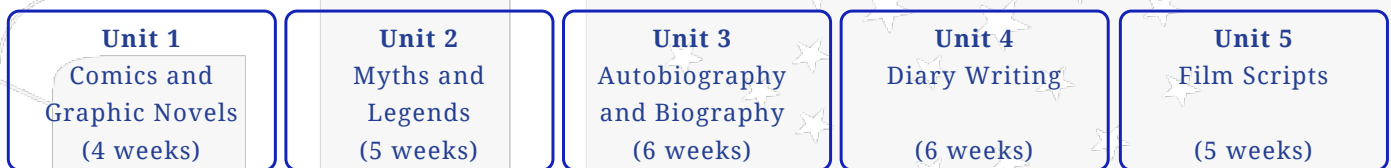


CM1

ORGANISATION

The five exciting units for reading and writing will allow children to solidify their writing skills and deepen their reading fluency and comprehension. Each writing unit will include engaging project work that the children can be proud of, enabling creative and purposeful application of key literacy skills. In reading, classic as well as modern titles from a variety of genres will open their horizons to new books, as the activities develop their reading independence and an opportunity to gain information about the world around them.

Just before each vacation, the children will use their reading and writing skills to create exciting projects based on a range of subjects and themes such as science and geography. The year will be filled with activities that will make the children happy to connect to class and each week children will discover the English syllabus through a new and exciting lense.



+ Mini Units (1 week at the end of each school period)

HOMEWORK

Students will be expected to complete **30-45 minutes** of homework per week, which would consist of reading a chapter from the books studied, watching an education video or doing a short writing exercise for example. Optional home activities will be offered to students.

MINI-UNITS

Regular shorter units will spice up the rigorous reading and writing curriculum by allowing the students to transfer those skills to other areas. Possible ideas for these units include :

KITCHEN SCIENCE

Experiments exploring acids and bases.
Mini-project : writing science report

STEM WEEK

Using the design process : egg drop
Mini-project : making an advertisement for the invented device

BOOK DAY

Dress like a character, interview a famous character from literature.
Mini-project : writing a book report

CREATING A SETTLEMENT

Geography themes.
Mini-project : writing a slide presentation and oral presentation

RESEARCH PROJECT

Taking notes and identifying essential themes.
Mini-project : virtual poster creation

UNITS

Unit 1 - Comics and Graphic Novels (4 weeks)

Students will dive into the year by exploring the basics of story-telling through graphic novels and comics. Children will learn about characters, setting, and plot, and how those are communicated in the comic through dialogue, drawings, and captions.

Possible mini-projects :

- Inventing your own comic
- Turning a well known story into a graphic novel (collaborative class project)

Possible titles studied :

- *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat* by Chris Riddell
- Graphic Myths and Legends
- Hero Twins

Unit 2 - Myths and Legends (5 weeks)

Students will continue developing their story-telling by moving onto an in-depth study of Myths and Legends. Transitioning from a study of myth comics, they will start to identify the elements of a myth and analyze differences between myths and other stories. In writing, students will continue working on setting character and plot by writing detailed descriptions and improving their descriptive writing through techniques that add variety and precision.

Possible mini-projects :

- Setting dioramas to inspire detailed descriptions
- Superheroes and their flaws
- Inventing your own myth

Possible titles studied :

- *Myths of the Norsemen* by Roger Lancelyn Green
- Other anthologies

Unit 3 - Autobiography and Biography (6 weeks)

Students will transition to a new genre by reading and writing nonfiction texts. Reading will introduce students to non-fiction writing structure, using the whole page in their comprehension (fact boxes, timelines, titles and subtitles...), all the while learning about exciting, high-interest topics. Writing will focus on structuring a paragraph clearly and systematically, as well as learning to tell an autobiographical anecdote.

Possible mini-projects :

- Report on how a famous person got their start
- The Story of My Talent (and the Virtual Talent Show)
- Biography of My Hero

Possible titles studied :

- *The girl who drew butterflies : how Maria Merian's art changed science* by Joyce Sidman
- *Boy* by Roald Dahl
- People Profiles in Newspapers such as First News

Unit 4 - Diary Writing (6 weeks)

Students will take on the challenge of getting inside the head of a character and writing a diary entry from their point of view. Reading will focus on character development. Writing will focus on the structural and language features of diaries.

Possible mini-projects :

- Imagining the diary of a character studied in class
- Twisted Tales (traditional story seen from a new perspective)

Possible titles studied :

- *Ben and Me* by Robert Lawson
- *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary

Unit 5 - Film Scripts (5 weeks)

Students will conclude the year with an exciting project that builds new technology skills as well as drama techniques. Reading will consolidate fluency as well as understanding of story telling and lead to the creation of a film by the students. They will be script writers, producers, editors, actors, directors, and stage hands! Writing will allow the students to continue to develop descriptive techniques, using new types of phrasing, while developing understanding of the features of a play script.

Possible mini-projects :

- Writing short dialogues in a two-voice poem format
- Converting a story to a film script

Possible titles studied :

- *Joyful Noise : Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman
- *The Tell Tale Heart* or other short tales from literature that could be studied for conversion to a script

Please note that all named texts are subject to change, as each class' syllabus will be tailored to suit the needs and interests of students