

**Language Arts**  
*Ms. Kevi*  
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*I love writing. I love the swirl and swing of words as they tangle  
with human emotions. —James Michener*

**Course Description:**

**Reading:**

You will be reading American Literature including: short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. This will be paired with non-fictional pieces that show the influence an era in America had on the author, and how the author influenced America.

**Writing:**

You will continue to strengthen your skills as writers through focus on: clarity, correct grammar, strong details, vivid language, and your own voice.

**Speaking and Listening:**

Along with the daily expectation of communicating with grace and courtesy, you will be able to share with your peers through presentations.

*Socratic Dialogue:* This is a formal group discussion. They will be on a pre-assigned topic connected to each cycle's theme.

**Language:**

You will work on a Grammar Glossary for the entire year. By creating definition, writing your own sentences, parsing it, and using illustrations, you will work toward mastery of this complicated language.

*Etymology:* You will investigate the origins of our language. Each week you will look at assigned word parts, find out where it came from, what it means, and what words we use it in today. This is key to decoding our language. It also means your vocabulary will grow.

**Expectations:**

- Grace and Courtesy are the expectation of all people in this classroom. Through respectful behavior we, as a class, will learn in a kind, encouraging atmosphere.
- Study Guides will be handed out weekly. All assignments need to be completed.

- Use your planner to ensure you are using your work time wisely.
- Always remember, ask questions.

### **Grading:**

- You will receive full points for completed **daily work**.
- You will receive a percentage grade for:
  - Quizzes
  - Tests
  - Projects
  - Participation
- If you see that you are not able to complete the work during your school day, this means it is homework. Please:
  - Document it in your Daily Planner.
  - Bring work home.
  - Bring back schoolwork in the morning.

### **How to contact me:**

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at:  
[kbyers@mariamontessoriacademy.org](mailto:kbyers@mariamontessoriacademy.org)

### **Learning Goals:**

In each Cycle we will be covering Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language.

- **Cycle 0 – Orientation**
  - Study the Great Lesson of Language, the History of Writing
  - Create the Grammar Glossary's Table of Content
  - Create a Proofreading Symbol Chart
  - Begin Etymology Card set. Understand the importance Latin and Greek roots have in decoding our language
  - Write personal narratives on summer
- **Cycle 1 – Structure**
  - Study the Creation Myths of some of America's Native Tribes
  - Study common themes and tools of the oral tradition
  - Create your own Creation Myth
  - Continue work on Grammar Glossary
  - Continue making Etymology Card and mastering the meaning.
  - Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

➤ **Cycle 2 – Forces**

- o Study Speeches that changed history
- o Choose and memorize a famous, American speech
- o Learn to write a persuasive essay that deals with the struggle for change
- o Continue work on Grammar Glossary
- o Continue making Etymology Card and mastering the meaning
- o Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

➤ **Cycle 3 – Power**

- o Study Poetry Literary Terminology
- o Study and enjoy Poetry
- o Create your own Poetry Book
- o Continue work on Grammar Glossary
- o Continue making Etymology Card and mastering the meaning
- o Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

➤ **Cycle 4 – Changes**

- o Explore different kinds of grammatical choices that writers make to achieve certain effects
- o We will answer a variety of questions:
  - Why are there rules for grammar?
  - Do we always have to follow the “rules” for grammar?
  - Why would an author use fragments if they’re “wrong”?
- o Continue work on Grammar Glossary
- o Continue making Etymology Card and mastering the meaning
- o Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

➤ **Cycle 5 – Balance**

- o Compare and Contrast a reading of your choice to another piece. It can be anything you choose: songs, a commercial, art, dance, movies, video games, or other texts you have read.
- o Continue work on Grammar Glossary
- o Continue making Etymology Card and mastering the meaning
- o Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

***But, above all it is the education of adolescents that is important, because adolescence is the time when the child enters on the state of manhood and becomes a member of society. –Maria Montessori***