

## Introduction to Language Arts Curriculum For Parents

### Language Arts Units

This Artios Academies curriculum takes an integrated approach to teaching language arts. All literature selections, writing assignments, and grammar exercises are designed to integrate directly with the history topics that are being studied in order to maximize both your students' understanding of the time period and their retention of information. While it is written with the student as the audience, it is intended to be used with parental input, feedback, and supervision.

### Notebook

It is highly recommended that your student(s) keep a notebook for their language arts work throughout the year. This notebook can be organized with dividers that include sections for Author Profiles, Writing Projects, Literary Analyses, and any other areas that you/they may desire. Your student(s) may enjoy decorating covers for their notebooks.

### Literature Selections

The literature selections in this curriculum have been carefully selected and ordered to align with the historical topics that your students are studying simultaneously. It is highly recommended that parents also take time to study the literary works so you can better assess your students' comprehension of the stories. Make time for discussion of some of the themes and ideas that are woven throughout the text. Make sure to ask some questions that have simple, concise answers as well as ones that require some thought. This also makes for a great opportunity to discuss the worldviews represented within each work and to help your students evaluate the truths and fallacies they encounter in different belief systems.

This curriculum does not have vocabulary assignments; however, vocabulary selections are included in the textbook. A diligent study of vocabulary can improve test scores and writing skills. Encourage your student to become diligent and organized in the study of vocabulary.

The literary works you will need for this curriculum are as follows (listed in order of use):

- *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Hoskins Forbes
- *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* by Benjamin Franklin
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

## Writing Assignments

The writing assignments provided in this curriculum are designed to meet the standards of any preparatory program. They are designed to prepare students for more rigorous college-level assignments. Our goal is to help students grow in their ease and skill in writing and that they are exposed to a wide variety of writing experiences.

Grading rubrics are also included for assignments to assist parents in evaluating their students' writing. Giving these grading rubrics to a student prior to beginning a writing exercise can be helpful for them in understanding what is expected of the assignment; however, it is not necessary

that they be used. It is useful to give students guidelines that will help them feel confident in working through an assignment.

Additional literature projects are provided within the online resources, and these cross-curricular projects allow students to express themselves creatively in a variety of ways. While it is not necessary to use every assignment listed in the curriculum, it is important to supplement assignments in ways that allow your students to supplement their literature studies with literature projects that fit their schedule and interests.

## Website Content

Website resources are provided along with this curriculum for your convenience on the **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website at [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com). Within the language arts section, you will find:

- **Context Resources** which will help you to extend and enrich your student's understanding of the literature.
- **Language Arts Resources** which will provide you with extra material you might desire to print and use. Additional literature projects are also included within this section. This section includes **Formats and Models** which provides examples of types and styles of the writing assignments being explored, along with grading rubrics.

*While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of any Internet links that are provided, please use caution and oversight when allowing your students to access online information.* This content will be monitored regularly and updated as necessary. If a web link won't open a web page by clicking the link, try typing the URL into a web browser.

## Grammar

The "Notes" for this year's grammar come from *Analytical Grammar* by R. Robin Finley and Erin M. Karl. The exercises are designed to integrate directly with the work of literature being studied. If a student is having trouble with a particular concept, allow them to spend extra time reviewing these concepts before moving on.

Grammar for this year, complete with instructions and exercises, can be found in an eBook on the **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website at [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com). Grammar Exercises in the eBook may be printed from the website according to the number of students. Answer keys may be made available to parents at the teacher's discretion.