

## English Level 2

### August/September

#### Focus:

- Expectations for excellence in writing
- Grammar and writing mechanics
- Focus on Sentence Structure
- Narrative Writing/Point of View
- Grammar/vocabulary
- Reading Comprehension

#### Readings:

"It's Raining Monarchs" & Comprehension Questions  
"Ancient Egyptians: Raising Royal Treasure" & Comprehension Questions  
"Remembering Their Journey" & Comprehension Questions  
My Side of the Mountain - Jean Craighead George

#### Assignments:

Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 1 - The Basic Sentence  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 2 - Sentence Focus  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 3 - Joining Sentences with Coordinators  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 4 - Joining Sentences with Subordinators

How to Write Expository Essays & Sentences by Boyd - Unit 1

501 Grammar and Writing Questions - Section 1  
501 Grammar and Writing Questions- Section 3

Common Core Worksheets

Wordly Wise Vocabulary Level 7: Lessons 1-5

#### **Composition:** Expository Essay

"It's Raining Monarchs" Essay: What can we learn from nature? Why is it important to preserve and protect the environment?

#### **Composition:** Expository Essay

Please discuss some of the skills Sam must use to survive in the woods. What type of skills does an individual need to learn in order to fend for himself in the wilderness? How might you be able to develop those skills?

#### **In-Class Composition:** Narrative/Descriptive Essay

Describe your home or another place that feels like home. You may discuss your favorite place through sensory details and vivid description.

#### **Composition:** Critical Analysis Essay

Writers often foreshadow, or give clues about, what will happen next. Here are three events from Sam's story: Sam seeks out a friendship with Aaron; Sam enjoys Tom's stories about kids in town; Sam gets tired of writing in his journal, and goes to the library to get books to read. What major change do these events foreshadow?

Sam says of Frightful, "She was a captive, not a wild bird, and that is almost another kind of bird." What do you think Sam means by this? In what way might Sam's statement apply to himself?

### October – November

#### Focus:

- The Hero's Journey in literature
- Character Development
- Foreshadowing
- Persuasive techniques
- Grammar/vocabulary

#### Readings:

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien  
The Hero's Journey articles  
Common Core Reading Worksheets

Assignments:

Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 5 - Joining Sentences to Show Comparison and Contrast  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 6 - Joining Sentences to Show Concession  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 7 - Joining Parallel Structures  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 8 - Modifying Nouns with Adjectives

How to Write Expository Essays & Sentences by Boyd - Unit 3 - The Essay  
How to Write Expository Essays & Sentences by Boyd - Unit 4 - The Sentence  
How to Write Expository Essays & Sentences by Boyd - Unit 5 - Appendix

Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 5 - Joining Sentences to Show Comparison and Contrast  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 6 - Joining Sentences to Show Concession  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 7 - Joining Parallel Structures  
Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 8 - Modifying Nouns with Adjectives

The Hero's Journey Chart for The Hobbit  
Wordly Wise Vocabulary Level 7: Lessons 6-11

**Timed Write:**

Explore the stages of The Hero's Journey Bilbo has experience thus far and the impact they have had on his development.

**Composition:** Persuasive/Expository Essay

Using a work in popular culture, such as a film, television or web series, or novel, and show the progression of the hero through The Hero's Journey.

**Composition:** Critical Analysis

Given his development throughout the book, does Bilbo belong in Hobbiton at the end of the novel? He is not completely accepted by the hobbit community, but he seems to be perfectly happy there. How do you think Tolkien views the relationship between heroism and the simple life?

In many quest stories, the protagonist undertakes a double search. Even as he labors to complete his mission, he seeks some possibility buried deep within himself. Have the class discuss Bilbo's struggle to keep his timid Baggins side from overcoming "the Tookish part." How does the Bilbo of Chapter XIX differ from the hobbit who hosted "An Unexpected Party"? Is our hero's inner quest complete when he enters the Lonely Mountain? (On page 192 we learn, "Already he was a very different hobbit from the one that had run out without a pocket-handkerchief from Bag-End long ago.") Or does he still need to grow in curiosity, courage, or compassion?

**December – January**

Focus:

- Propaganda
- Power of language
- Compare and contrast concepts
- Test taking strategies
- Literary Terms/Rhetorical Devices
- Grammar/vocabulary

Readings:

A Corner of the Universe by Ann Martin  
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle  
Common Core Readings

Assignments:

501 Grammar and Writing Questions- Section 4  
501 Grammar and Writing Questions- Section 5  
501 Grammar and Writing Questions- Section 6

Unit 9 - Modifying Nouns with Prepositional Phrases

EL2 - Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 10 - Modifying Nouns with Appositives  
EL2 - Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 11 - Modifying Nouns with Adjective Clauses  
EL2 - Sentence Combining Workbook by Altman - Unit 12 - Modifying Sentences with Verbal Phrases

Wordly Wise Vocabulary Level 7: Lessons 12- 15

**Composition:** Critical Analysis Essays

1. There are many secrets in this story. Discuss the reasons why people need to keep secrets: Nana and Papa, Hattie's parents, Adam, Hattie, Angel - how do their secrets affect them and those around them?
2. Hattie develops a concern that she might be like Adam. Would her fears be lessened if she didn't keep them to herself? Would she have the same fears if Adam's condition had not been kept a secret from her?
3. Why does Adam hate the camera so much? What does the camera represent to him? Why does Martin begin the novel with Hattie looking at home movies of the summer and of the family's past?
4. Discuss the concept and meaning of the words "freak" and "freak show." Compare the ways these words are used referring to Adam and to the carnival sideshow.
5. Discuss the meaning of the title. Does the phrase "a corner of the universe" mean something different to each of the characters? What does it mean to Hattie, to Adam, to the boarders, to Leila, to Nana?
6. What would you identify as the true meaning of friendship after reading this book?

**Composition:** Critical Analysis Essays

A Wrinkle in Time essay on science fiction and fantasy concepts or character analysis.

**In-Class Essays: Topics vary**

**February – March**

- SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) and other Standardized Testing
- First person narrative techniques
- Grammar/vocabulary

Readings:

"The Scarlet Ibis" by James Hurst  
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton  
Common Core Readings

Assignments:

Grammar Success - Lesson 1  
Grammar Success - Lesson 2  
Grammar Success - Lesson 3  
Grammar Success - Lesson 4  
Grammar Success - Lesson 5  
Grammar Success - Lesson 6

The Outsiders Comprehensive Study Guide Sections 1-10  
Wordly Wise Vocabulary Level 7: Lessons 13-18

**Timed write:** Read excerpted. Then write a carefully reasoned essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies one of these claims (choice of claims provided and students may also devise their own claims) Support your argument with appropriate evidence.

**Composition:** Personal Exploratory Narrative

In a well-written essay that draws upon your reading, experience, or observations for support, take a position on the narrator's treatment of Doodle in "The Scarlet Ibis" and compare with your own treatment of a sibling, close relative, or friend.

**Composition:** Critical Analysis Essay

Write an essay explaining how expectations played a role in the lives of the Socs and the Greasers. How did external and internal expectations influence each group's actions in the novel?

Write an essay explaining why you believe each of the "main" Greasers could be considered a hero. Include your own definition of hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each boy, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples from the novel.

**Practice Essays: SBAC ((Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium))**

## April - May

### Theme: Compassion and Expression

Focus:

- Review of story elements: Character analysis/Plot/Setting/Conflicts
- Symbolism in literature
- Themes
- Grammar/vocabulary

Reading:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" - Ambrose Bierce

Assignments:

Grammar Success in 20 Minutes a Day- Lesson 7

Grammar Success in 20 Minutes a Day- Lesson 8

Grammar Success in 20 Minutes a Day- Lesson 9

Grammar Success in 20 Minutes a Day- Lesson 10

Grammar Success in 20 Minutes a Day- Lesson 11

Grammar Success in 20 Minutes a Day- Lesson 12

Grammar Success Post-Test

Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation Chapter 1-4

Wordly Wise Vocabulary Level 7: Lessons 19-20 and Review

Worldly Wise Vocabulary Level 8: Lessons 1-4 and Review

### Composition: Expository Analysis of Rhetorical Devices

In a well-developed essay, analyze key symbolic elements, figurative language, imagery, and tone that uses to enhance the theme of friendship and loneliness in the novel.

### Composition: Compare and Contrast Essay

After reading the short stories, write a well-crafted essay that discusses both works citing examples from each to support your beliefs.

### Composition: Critical Analysis Essay

In this story Ambrose Bierce describes vividly his character's struggle to survive and escape. Many of the selections you have read also focus on individuals who must struggle for physical and/or spiritual survival. Choose one of the characters you have read about during this term, and write a short essay explaining how the character you choose struggled with overwhelming forces. You may choose to focus solely on the character you select, or you may compare and contrast that character to Peyton Farquhar.

### Composition: Critical Analysis Essay

1. Dreams: What is the importance of dreams in Of Mice and Men? What role do they play in people's lives? How do people use dreams, and how do various characters' dreams affect them?
2. Discrimination: Look at the various examples of discrimination in Of Mice and Men. How does discrimination affect different characters? How do characters respond to discrimination, and how does it affect their lives, and the outcome of the story?
3. Friendship. How does Steinbeck portray friendship in Of Mice and Men? How does its presence or absence affect different characters, in their actions and in their relationships? What does it require of people, and what does it offer them in return?
4. Loneliness. Many of the characters in Of Mice and Men seem lonely. Why are various characters lonely, and how does it affect them?
5. Power. Think about different characters in Of Mice and Men, and the power that they have. What different kinds of power do different characters have? Where does it come from? What do they do with it? How does it help them, or hurt them?
6. Foreshadowing. Consider the many examples of foreshadowing in Of Mice and Men. What important actions and plot points are foreshadowed? How do these important events differ from the events that foreshadow them? How does foreshadowing help us understand the important turning points in the novella?

## May - June

Focus:

- Identifying historical context
- Making inferences

- Grammar/vocabulary

Readings:

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse  
Parrot in the Oven by Victor Martinez

Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation Chapter 5-10  
Wordly Wise Vocabulary Level 8: Lessons 5-9

### **Reading Comprehension**

#### **Poetry: Poetry Appreciation**

Continue reviewing different poetry forms/styles and analyze their themes and messages

#### **Composition: Narrative or Creative Writing**

Compose a compelling fictional narrative with a character who encounters a social issue and his/her attempts to navigate its effects on his/her circumstances and future. Emulate the style of Martinez.

#### **Composition: Narrative or Creative Writing**

Out of the Dust emulation chapter assignment using the author's style to describe an event from your life.

#### **Composition: Critical Analysis Writing**

1. What is the theme of *Out of the Dust*? How do you know? Give 3 specific examples/quotations that support your theme.
2. Give 2 specific examples when Karen Hesse incorporates real historical events into her writing. Does this add to the story or take away from it? Why? (The Dust Bowl cannot be one of your examples)
3. Tell me 2 ways in which Billie Jo changes from the beginning of the book to the end. Explain the details of why she changed and how it happened.
4. Reread the poem on page 89: Why doesn't Billie Jo's father or Coach Albright talk about Billie Jo's hands anymore? How does this make Billie Jo feel? Who makes her feel better in this poem? How?