



# COURSE DESCRIPTION

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## LANGUAGE ARTS & TEST PREP - GROUP CLASS (Grades 3-9, students grouped by age and level)

Mercer Education’s **LANGUAGE ARTS & TEST PREP** provides a comprehensive, long-term approach to Language Arts enrichment education with focus on reading comprehension, essay writing essentials, grammar fundamentals, and vocabulary acquisition. The materials used in this course have been especially developed by *MERCER EDUCATION* and offer each student a systematic and effective learning experience. Through weekly reading assignments and interactive activities, students strengthen their critical reading and writing skills, study different genres of literature, and learn literary terms and the basic components of literary analysis. While the focus is primarily on classic fiction and essay writing, students also work on poetry and non-fiction assignments while becoming familiar with standardized test formats and test-taking strategies for tests such as the SSAT\*, ISEE, ITBS, and MSP.

Though a majority of students enroll on an ongoing basis in order to strengthen and refine their language arts skills, Mercer Education’s 2-month enrollment cycle provides maximum flexibility so that students can determine how long they want to attend, whether for just a few months or longer. Students read 6-8 books per year, and each book unit has its own unique content with *no repetition of material* so students can attend for as long as they like to continue honing their skills. (Curricula alternate yearly so students can attend for 2 years at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade or 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade levels without repeating any materials.) Students may enroll at any time and receive a free assessment, after which they are assigned to appropriate groups of not more than six students according to level, age, and availability.

### COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Reading Comprehension  
(paraphrasing, interpreting, drawing inferences)
- ▶ Grammar Fundamentals with regular practice
- ▶ Broad Range of Literary Genres
- ▶ Vocabulary Building
- ▶ Essay Writing Essentials  
(brainstorming, outlines, structure and content)
- ▶ Preparation for Standardized Tests  
(SSAT, ISEE, ITBS, and MSP)
- ▶ Self-Editing and Revision Skills
- ▶ “Rolling” admission / start at any time

*Unlike other after-school programs, Mercer Education emphasizes learning using a variety of engaging materials that develop reading comprehension, critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills that extend beyond test-taking to increase students’ success in their ongoing academic endeavors.*

- Meets *once a week* for 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- Class size limited to no more than 6 students per group.
- Students receive free assessment upon enrollment and are grouped according to skill level and age.
- Cost based on 2-month blocks of pre-scheduled classes (7-9 classes per 2-month session, i.e. \$245-315) ongoing throughout the year (Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, etc.). Start any time: mid-session sign-up prorated.
- Parents receive progress reports (Dec. and May) with scores, comments and recommendations.
- Meets year round; classes generally scheduled weekdays 4–9pm and weekends 9am–5pm.

\*Test names & trademarks (SSAT, ISEE, ITBS, and MSP) are the property of the respective trademark holders, none of whom are affiliated w/Mercer Education or endorse its website, products or services.