



# COURSE DESCRIPTION

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## LANGUAGE ARTS GROUP CLASS (Grades 3-12, students grouped by age and level)

Mercer Education’s **LANGUAGE ARTS GROUP CLASS** provides a comprehensive, long-term approach to Language Arts enrichment education. Coursework will focus on **reading comprehension, essay writing, grammar, and vocabulary acquisition** and lays the groundwork for skills needed in high school and on the SAT. The materials used in this course have been 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 (novels and short stories) and essay writing**, students also work on poetry and non-fiction assignments while becoming familiar with standardized test formats and 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, ME’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 two years at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade or high school levels without repeating 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 (eight students in high school-level groups) 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 (with vocab from the assigned books)
- ▶ Essay Writing Essentials (brainstorming, outlines, structure and content)
- ▶ Introduction to Standardized Tests (SSAT, ISEE, ITBS, and MSP)
- ▶ Self-Editing and Revision Skills
- ▶ “Rolling” admission / start at any time, prorated

*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 in person or online via Zoom (contact school for details) for 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- Class size limited to no more than 6 students per group (8 per group at high school level or online)
- 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 (\$50/class, 7-9 classes per 2-month session, i.e., \$350-450) 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.