

Welcome to the “Logic Stage” Writing and Literature Class!

I’m Julie, a second generation, homeschooling mama of three and I’m so excited to be teaching this class for the fourth year!

Goals: I aim for kids to leave this class with a love of words, THE Word (Jesus), and the world He has made. I want students to grow in their writing abilities and gain tools to communicate with clarity and creativity. Lastly, I hope students glean beautiful truths from multiple genres of literature, even if it’s outside their comfort zone.

Literature: While this is primarily a writing class, I know of no better way to grow as a writer, than to be a studious reader. Writing is an art, not a formula, and by reading the cream-of-the-crop material, students will get to see fantastic writing in action, and be subconsciously influenced, learning the unteachable. And let’s face it, there are a million other essential reasons to read good literature!

Students will not need to write papers or do any quizzes on the literature books assigned. Instead, they will keep a commonplace journal throughout the year, writing down quotes or thoughts that struck them as they read the assigned passage. They should also be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Papers: We will be covering some but not all of the assignments in the “Jump In” curriculum. Some students already did a year of this curriculum. We are doing some repeated papers and some new topics. We won’t be going in order either. *See the syllabus below.* While I will provide feedback for all papers, I won’t be assigning a grade. If you as the parent choose to do so, you are more than welcome. I will not be comparing students to each other but instead will be looking for effort, improvement and the aforementioned clarity and creativity that’s memorable (but not distracting).

Also note, I was taught to write as a kid using IEWs dress ups. Encourage your kids to vary their sentence openers, use strong verbs and adjectives so as to keep their teacher awake while reading! ;) If you want more details on what these dress ups are, please message me!

Students will need to turn their papers in to me via Google Docs by Monday evening prior to class. Share with mommanixon@gmail.com AND monarchclassical@gmail.com Make sure the “Edit” feature is enabled. Google has some great editing features and students will need to write in MLA format.

Assistance: We have students with various experiences and skills in this class. Please let me know ASAP if your child has a learning difference or needs extra help during class time (ie Don't call on them to read aloud. Etc.) Regardless of your child's abilities, I HIGHLY encourage parents to read some of the literature books aloud to their kids. I recall doing plenty of page scanning without comprehension in my school days. The technical difficulties of reading can get in the way of absorption sometimes. So yes, audiobooks are coolio with me as long as students have a hard copy so they can commonplace from it. Level of parental involvement in paper writing is something I will leave to the discretion of you, their parent! I have included the syllabus (subject to change!!!) so that if you are wanting to help your child pace themselves and learn project tackling skills, you have the info you need. If this information would overwhelm and discourage them, they can just get the weekly assignment that I send them home with.

If you have a voracious writer, there are fun writing prompts in the back of the curriculum that you can assign.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns now and throughout the year. I look forward to seeing your kids grow and flourish this year!

Julie Nixon

Date	In Class	Homework Due Next Week
8/25	"Get Your Feet Wet", Why Read Literature, Explanation of Commonplace Journal	Tom Sawyer Chaps. 1-7
9/1	"Descriptive Writing" Introduced	Rewrite paragraph in Curriculum on p. 211 Tom Chaps. 8-15
9/8	"Descriptive Writing" Further	Skills 4 & 5 p. 215-216 Tom Chaps. 16-23
9/15	Tom Sawyer Discussion	Write 300 word description See p. 217
9/22	Share Papers	Make Revisions to papers Tom Chaps. 24-31
9/29	"How-To: Essay"	Write a "How-To Essay"
10/6	"How-To: Instruction Manual"	Write a "How-To Instruction Manual" Finish Tom Sawyer
10/13	OFF	NONE
10/20	Tom Sawyer Discussion, "Newspaper" Introduced	Esperanza 1924 & Las Uvas Pick a Bible Story to Rewrite
10/27	"Newspaper" Skill 2, 3, 4	Write the Rough Draft Las Papayas- Los Higos
11/3	"Newspaper" Skills 5, 6	Final Draft of Newspaper Las Guayabas - Los Melones
11/10	Esperanza Rising Discussion	Las Cebollas - Las Ciruelas
11/17	"Narrative" Introduced	Write 300 word Narrative with characterization and a hook Las Papas - Los Aguacates
11/24	OFF	NONE
12/01	"Narrative" Further including POV and motivation	Make Revisions to papers and add POV and motivation Los Espárragos - End
12/08	Esperanza Discussion, "Book Response"	Create one written and one artistic response to Esperanza

Date	In Class	Homework Due Next Week
1/12	How to Read Fairy Tales, Intro to The Princess and the Goblin "A Report" Skills 1, 2, 3, and 5	The Princess and the Goblin Chaps. 1-7 Pick a Topic for Report, Gather Sources
1/19	"A Report" Introduced Skills 4, 7, 8.	Write Purpose Statement Write Notes from Sources P & G Chaps. 8-14
1/26	"A Report" Further Skills 9-10	Write an Outline P & G Chaps. 15-21
2/2	"A Report" Skills 12, 13, 15	Write Intro and Conclusion Turn in 1st Draft P & G Chaps. 22-28
2/9	OFF	NONE
2/16	"A Report" Works Cited Explanation, Proofreading	Turn in Final Report Finish P & G
2/23	The Princess and the Goblin Discussion, Intro to the Giver	NONE
3/2	Intro to Poetry	Write 2 poems The Giver Ch. 1-5
3/9	More Poetry	Write 2 more poems The Giver 6-9
3/16	OFF	NONE
3/23	"Persuasion" Introduced	Five Reasons with Proofs/Explanations, In Order and Ready to Present
3/30	"Refuting Arguments" Persuasive Skill	Write a paragraph for your paper using the refuting skill The Giver 10-14
4/6	"Persuasion" Intro and Conclusion Paragraphs	Write Intro and Conclusion The Giver 15-19
4/13	Persuasion" Further	Turn in 1st Draft of Persuasive Paper
4/20	"Persuasion" Self Editing	Revise Paper Finish The Giver
4/27	Discuss The Giver and Celebrate	Sleep

