

English II Course Description

Write4Homeschool

Literature and Writing	<p>Beowulf by Anonymous - Students will read this great epic poem and participate in Forum discussions throughout the unit. <i>Students will submit an Analytical Essay to the teacher at the end of this unit.</i></p>
	<p>Odyssey by Homer - Embark on an extraordinary adventure with Odysseus with Homer's epic masterpiece. Along with their reading, students will participate in the Forum to enhance their learning. <i>Students will submit a Compare/Contrast Essay to the teacher at the end of this unit.</i></p>
	<p>The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer - Students will join Chaucer on an amazing pilgrimage and, along the way, meet some very colorful characters. Along this journey, students will participate in discussion on the Forum. <i>Students will submit a Short Story to the teacher at the end of this unit.</i></p>
	<p>Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare - Take a peek at the great playwright's perspective on a famous historical character. <i>Students will learn to be playwrights and submit their drama to the teacher at the end of this unit.</i></p>
	<p>Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen - After all of the monsters and warriors, students will have a chance to experience the softer side of things through Austen's extraordinary novel. The Forum will provide a place where students may discuss the novel. <i>At the end of this unit, students will submit to the teacher a paper on the a topic of choice.</i></p>
	<p>Persuasive Writing - Students will review the techniques for persuasive writing. <i>At the end of this unit, students will submit to the teacher a persuasive response to a topic of choice.</i></p>
	<p>Poetry - Students will not only create their own poetry collection over the year, but they will also study various well-known poets, including Tennyson and Eliot. In addition, they will write poetry of their own.</p>
Grammar	<p>Students will be reminded through revision and proofreading processes of the importance of proper structure and grammar in writing. Students may access various Checklists for writing which aid students in their revisions. Additionally, <i>English II</i> students are given full access to the Grammar section of the website where they may review rules which govern punctuation and proper grammar. From this page, they can also access Practice Exercises, which they may complete to reinforce concepts in grammar. A Key is provided to ensure accuracy for these exercises.</p>
Required Materials	<p><i>Beowulf</i> by Anonymous is required beginning in Lesson 8. Various translations of this epic poem are available. John McNamara's translation is straightforward while still clinging to many of the poetic devices used in the original manuscript. Whatever translation you choose, please make sure it notes continuous line numbers, and, unless your student understands Old English, please choose a modern English translation! <i>(Please note that, while you may download a free manuscript at Project Gutenberg, this is not recommended; printing it would be tedious, and reading it directly from the screen would make note-taking difficult if not impossible.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Odyssey</i> by Homer is required beginning in Lesson 20. Various translations are available. While the class will be taught using Stanley Lombardo's translation, the only true requirement is that, for ease of communication, your student use a translation in which the main character is referred to as Odysseus rather than the Latin Ulysses. Additionally, it would be helpful to use an edition with noted chapter and line numbers. (Note: In the <i>Odyssey</i> unit, students will be required to research mythology. The study of mythology is a good springboard for thoughtful conversations. During the research process, parental guidance is suggested as students may be exposed to various works of mythological art, especially if research is completed using the internet. Note also that, in some translations, there are a couple of occurrences of derogatory language. Finally, the book includes some themes of a sexual nature.)</p>
	<p><i>The Canterbury Tales</i> by Geoffrey Chaucer is required by Lesson 42. There are many translations/versions available of this great tale. You may choose one which better captures and stays true to Chaucer's poetic format, or you may find a prose version easier to understand. (Note: Chaucer's masterpiece includes themes of infidelity, sex, murder, and violence and is at times characterized by vulgarity and a general coarseness.)</p>
	<p><i>Julius Caesar</i> by William Shakespeare is required by Lesson 69. Try to find a copy which has been edited with notes and other helps. It is especially useful to read a copy where idioms and other unique language characteristics are explained and defined in the margin or on an adjacent page to the text.</p>
	<p><i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen</p>
Other	<p>Students will answer guided questions on the Forum. This is a place where they can share ideas and insights about the lessons with other students and with the teacher.</p>