

## Language Arts 9 Semester A Honors Syllabus

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**Course Description:** Language Arts 9 Honors is an integrated curriculum. Each module contains thematically related lessons in two or more of five domains: reading and the study of literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language study, including word knowledge and grammar skills. Topics are presented in ways that help students connect literacy skills to real-world experiences and other aspects of their lives. Writing assignments include narrative, expository, and persuasive/argumentative modes and emphasize the use of relevant details, evidence, and reasoning to support ideas. Speaking and listening lessons in Semester A emphasize collaborative discussion skills and peer review. Vocabulary development is integrated throughout literature and informational text lessons.

This honors course follows the same core curriculum as Language Arts 9 but includes increased rigor, deeper analysis, and higher expectations for independent thinking and performance. Honors students are expected to demonstrate initiative, engage in deeper analysis, and produce work that reflects advanced critical thinking, independence, and attention to detail in preparation for future advanced coursework.

Module	Lesson Title	Objectives
<b>Module 1: The Basics</b>	Read for Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distinguish between explicit and implicit details using textual evidence.</li><li>• Analyze how narrative elements work together to develop meaning.</li><li>• Analyze how authors use literary to develop mood in a text.</li></ul>
	Identify the Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze the elements of plot in a narrative.</li><li>• Summarize the plot of a story.</li></ul>
	Search for Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify themes in a short story, a poem, and an essay.</li><li>• Analyze how elements of a story, a poem, or an essay suggest a theme.</li></ul>
	Find Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define and identify examples of symbols and symbolism.</li><li>• Identify textual evidence that supports a theme.</li><li>• Analyze the theme of a story based on textual evidence.</li></ul>
	Say What It Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distinguish between objective and subjective text.</li><li>• Construct a theme-based summary of a story.</li></ul>

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	Talk About It	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify strategies for a successful collaborative discussion.</li> <li>Discuss a story's themes, using a collaborative approach to understanding literature.</li> </ul>
	Write a Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze elements needed to make a story interesting to readers.</li> <li>Generate ideas for written narrative.</li> <li>Draft a personal narrative, ensuring that the narrative begins and progresses in an interesting and logical way.</li> </ul>
	Tell a Better Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe strategies for improving a written narrative.</li> <li>Revise the first draft of personal narrative.</li> </ul>
<b>Module 2: For Old Times' Sake</b>	Reading Classic Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify characteristics of classic literature.</li> <li>Explain the effect of difficult text on fluency and comprehension.</li> <li>Apply general strategies for reading difficult text.</li> </ul>
	How Phonics Can Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decode words using phonics and word parts including bases, suffixes, and prefixes.</li> <li>Identify patterns of word changes that alter meaning or function.</li> <li>Apply multiple decoding strategies to understand unfamiliar words.</li> </ul>
	Know Your Roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall the meaning of common Latin and Greek word parts.</li> <li>Decode complex words using knowledge of Latin and Greek word parts.</li> </ul>
	Travel Back in Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the characteristics of historical fiction.</li> <li>Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a work of historical fiction.</li> <li>Explain the significance of historical fiction in understanding past events.</li> </ul>
	The Source Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.</li> <li>Analyze the relationship between primary and secondary sources.</li> </ul>

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	Connect the Dots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze documents that were created to share information or insight about a historical event.</li> <li>Draw conclusions about an event based on multiple historical documents.</li> </ul>
	Media Blitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how historical events are portrayed in different media.</li> <li>Synthesize information from various sources to understand historical context.</li> </ul>
	The Past is Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish between memoirs and other forms of literature.</li> <li>Analyze how an author's choices about time and event sequence, such as pacing and flashbacks, create mystery, tension, or surprise.</li> </ul>
<b>Module 3: The Writer's Craft</b>	Tricks of the Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and identify examples of hyperbole, simile, metaphor, euphemisms, and idioms.</li> <li>Explain how figures of speech affect meaning.</li> </ul>
	Figures as Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze an author's use of figures of speech as symbols.</li> </ul>
	Good Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify examples of direct and indirect characterization.</li> <li>Distinguish between types of characters.</li> <li>Analyze character development in a story.</li> </ul>
	Who's on Point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and describe a story's point of view.</li> <li>Describe the impact of point of view in a story.</li> </ul>
	Trust No One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and identify examples of an unreliable narrator.</li> <li>Analyze point of view in a story with an unreliable narrator.</li> </ul>
	Starting Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generate ideas and select essential elements for a fictional story.</li> <li>Draft a short story that engages and orients readers and develops a compelling narrative.</li> </ul>

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	Ask a Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of peer review goals and process.</li> <li>• Provide effective feedback on a peer’s short story.</li> </ul>
	A Little More Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the draft of a short story, applying feedback from peers and teachers.</li> <li>• Edit the style of story: vary sentence structure, replace vague language with precise words and phrases, and add sensory details where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Module 4: Written with Purpose</b>	Why Write?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify typical purposes for literary writing.</li> <li>• Describe the purpose of literary text, based on textual evidence.</li> </ul>
	Finding Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how the elements of a narrative can suggest its purpose.</li> <li>• Analyze how the purpose of a literary text informs the author’s choices.</li> </ul>
	Same Old Story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and identify examples of universal themes.</li> <li>• Compare stories that express the same universal themes or ideas.</li> </ul>
	Wait and See	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe methods for creating suspense.</li> <li>• Explain how specific short stories build suspense.</li> </ul>
	Shadow Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and identify examples of foreshadowing.</li> <li>• Analyze how suspense is maintained in narrative.</li> <li>• Analyze the use of suspense to express themes.</li> </ul>
	A Time Machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and identify examples of flashbacks.</li> <li>• Analyze an author’s choices about how to structure a narrative, order events within it, and manipulate time to create an effect.</li> </ul>
	Hooked on a Feeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish between denotation and connotation.</li> <li>• Analyze the effects of connotation on mood and suspense.</li> </ul>

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	Meaning More	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify nuances of meaning in words with similar denotations.</li> <li>Analyze how an author's word choices create or add to a story's meaning.</li> </ul>
<b>Module 5: Digging Deeper</b>	Look for Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish between literary and informational texts.</li> <li>Identify common structures or patterns used to organize informational texts.</li> </ul>
	Read Past the Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make inferences based on textual evidence and background knowledge.</li> <li>Draw conclusions about a topic based on details provided in one or more informational text.</li> </ul>
	Word Attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use context clues to determine meaning.</li> <li>Use reference materials to confirm or clarify a word's meaning.</li> </ul>
	Section by Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify features of informational text that suggest the main idea.</li> <li>Determine the main ideas in an informational text.</li> </ul>
	Look for Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List and describe features of informational text that suggest a text's main idea.</li> <li>Identify textual evidence that suggests or supports a main idea.</li> </ul>
	Sum It Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarize an informational article.</li> </ul>
	Read the Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and describe typographical and textual cues that reveal the structure of an informational text.</li> <li>Analyze the organization of an informational text, explaining how the text's structure relates to its purpose.</li> </ul>
	Offer an Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify features of explanatory text.</li> <li>Generate topics for an explanatory report.</li> <li>Generate sufficient and relevant detail to support an explanatory topic.</li> </ul>

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<b>Module 6: Point Taken</b>	Facts vs Feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish between objective and subjective writing.</li> <li>• Identify examples of objective and subjective text.</li> <li>• Describe the tone of an informational article.</li> </ul>
	Good Choice!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the effect of words' connotations on the tone of a text.</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of word choice on the tone of an informational article.</li> </ul>
	A Matter of Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key aspects of an author's point of view.</li> <li>• Analyze how points of view differ in two related texts.</li> </ul>
	Driven by Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall the purposes an author might have for writing a specific text.</li> <li>• Analyze the purpose of a text based on textual evidence and information about the author's point of view.</li> </ul>
	The Words of Scholar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify features of academic discourse, including academic vocabulary.</li> <li>• Distinguish between general and domain-specific academic vocabulary.</li> <li>• Use a variety of strategies to define academic vocabulary words.</li> </ul>
	Write to Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify elements and structure used in an informative report.</li> <li>• Draft an informative report with sufficient detail, effective organization, and a formal or objective style.</li> </ul>
	A Logical Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a logical order for presenting information.</li> <li>• Revise an informative speech for clarity and conciseness.</li> <li>• Present an informative speech.</li> </ul>
	Your Point Exactly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify multiple types of details or evidence to support a speech's main ideas.</li> <li>• Integrate information from various sources into an informative speech.</li> </ul>