

English Reading and Writing – ERW1 – 2nd Grade – John Ziegler

Class Schedule

Spring term; Saturdays (12:00 pm – 12:50 pm); on Zoom.

Fees: \$100

Course Description

The class is designed for students to develop their reading skills and to practice answering critical thinking questions based upon the readings. A wide variety of folk tales, fairy tales, and other delightful readings are chosen to entertain while building vocabulary and writing abilities. All materials are provided weekly for the parents to download and print. Students jointly read scripts adapted from readings as well as enjoy other learning games. Weekly homework is sent out to the parents.

Weeks 1-3: Throughout the course, reading comprehension questions will be provided and students write out the answers. Identifying the main ideas and details are foremost, but also identifying lessons and author's message within these tales are discussed. We begin with *Cinderella* and several others.

Weeks 4-6: Identifying character traits and personal descriptions will be the focus of these weeks and we use *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Rumpelstiltskin*. Students will identify traits within story characters and write about their own character traits. Students read scripts and exhibit characteristics.

Weeks 7-9: These next weeks we will focus on reading passages about animals and plant life. Practice making inferences and discussing issues around animal and habitat safety. Students write letters to zoo owners and complete animal word searches.

Weeks 10-12: Parables such as *The Ant and the Grasshopper* will be read and discussed. The focus will be on identifying the lessons and relating them to their own lives. Students will practice asking questions to the characters about the parables and answer reading comprehension questions.

Weeks 13-16: These last four weeks will focus a bit more on vocabulary building and writing. The reading will focus on longer fictional narratives appropriate for their levels. The specific material will be selected based on students' individual interests and skill levels closer to the time. Students will begin to write short summaries of the readings with opinions backed up with details from the texts.

About John Ziegler

John Ziegler has been teaching at Ray Chinese School for two years and has taught a wide number of English classes to grades two through eight. Additionally, he teaches a World Affairs course and has taught Speech and SAT Prep. Mr. Ziegler also works at a human rights organization where he teaches Citizenship and English to refugees and asylum seekers. Prior to his work in Chicago, Mr. Ziegler taught Middle School English, High School Economics, And Algebra II for six years in various schools and programs in Thailand.