

Elementary School Enrichment English (ELA3) – 5 Weeks - John Ziegler

Class Schedule

Summer Session I, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (1pm – 2:50pm); on Zoom (30 hours)

Fees: \$380

Course Description

This engaging summer course incorporates 3rd grade core curriculum with the fun of group reading some of the greatest children's novels written for this age group. Students will improve upon their reading and writing abilities as they work through thought provoking writing exercises and original story writing. Students will read two books, *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl, and *Dragons in a Bag*, by Zetta Elliot. Students will practice writing in four different styles: description, persuasion, opinion response, and summary. The first half of the class period is spent on homework review and reading the novels together. The second half of the class is spent explaining and providing examples for the writing exercises and then actually writing. Students will be asked to share their work in most classes.

Weeks 1&2: Settings and Characters

We begin this course reading *James and the Giant Peach*. Jumping in to the first few chapters, students will write a description of the characters and the setting, using evidence from the text and descriptive language. Students build upon their vocabularies while practicing detailed writing. Students will also write a persuasive argument weighing the pros and cons of how to resolve a conflict within the story. Homework will include novel study packets with reading comprehension exercises. Similes and metaphors as figurative language are introduced and included in writing exercises.

Weeks 3&4: Themes and Plots

This week we finish up with *James and the Giant Peach*. Students will discuss what themes are and identify them within the story. Writing exercises will continue to reinforce the descriptive and figurative language used as students write their own opinion responses to questions about aspects of the story. We will then begin with our second book, *Dragons in a Bag*. Students will begin exploring how to further identify major themes as well as identifying and practice writing about the various character traits and personalities of the individual characters.

Week 5: Final Week

As we finish up with *Dragons in a Bag*, students will be instructed to compare/contrast it with *James and the Giant Peach*. Students will also write summaries of their favorite of the two books.

About John Ziegler

John Ziegler has been teaching at Ray Chinese School for over two years and has taught a wide number of English classes to grades one through eight. Additionally, he teaches a World Affairs course and has taught Speech and SAT Prep. 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.

