

Elementary School English Enrichment (ME6) – 5 Weeks - John Ziegler

Class Schedule

Summer session I; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, (5pm - 6:50pm); on Zoom; Total: 30 hours.

Fees: \$395

Course Description

The summer enrichment course is created as both a reading and a writing course in which students build both skills and confidence while enjoying these heroic and meaningful stories. We will use the novels *Inside Out and Back Again*, by Thanhha Lai, and *Ronan Boyle and the Bridge of Riddles*, by Thomas Lennon, as our anchor texts with which to explore the major story elements and figurative language. It is designed with the 5th grade Core Curriculum and meant to enrich as well as inspire a greater love for reading and writing. Students will practice writing short weekly essays in the following formats: descriptive, narrative, argumentative, expository, and analytical. 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 students engage in writing. Students will be expected to share their work in most classes.

Weeks 1&2: The Adventure Begins: Setting and Characters

We begin this course reading *Ronan Boyle and the Bridge of Riddles*. Students will practice writing descriptive essays by choosing a character or the setting in the book using the many types of figurative language and vocabulary in this book. Students will also be writing a personal narrative relating themselves to some aspect of one of the themes, characters, or setting. Homework will include novel study packets with reading comprehension questions.

Weeks 3&4: Introductions to Research and Argumentation

As we finish up with *Ronan Boyle and the Bridge of Riddles*, students will choose an aspect of this London based novel and conduct a small amount of research on a chosen topic and write a short expository essay. We will move on to *Inside Out and Back Again* and students will write a short argumentative essay about one of the many themes in this thought provoking and intense adventure story.

Week 5: Final Analysis

In the final week, students will work on a literary analysis of the book. They will be encouraged to highlight which story elements and literary devices they liked most, and where the book fell short in their views.

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.