

Middle School Creative Writing

LAN0651

Course Description

Creative Writing is a semester long course that explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking students will learn to become better readers, writers, and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, family storytelling, fairy tales, fantasies, short stories, and journals.

Rationale

The Middle School Creative Writing course offers students an examination of the different genres of writing, the five elements that go into story developments, and the importance of keeping a journal. The skills taught in this course will not only help students to become better creative writers, but it will develop the skills that will help them in other course as well.

Prerequisite

None

Measurable Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to (TSWBAT):

- A. Accurately identify the five elements of a story: plot, setting, characters, theme, and conflict
- B. Choose and develop strategies for various writing genres
- C. Utilize elements of style, including word choice and sentence variation
- D. Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure
- E. Engage in informal and formal writing assignments
- F. Create a plot line and identify the parts of a plot
- G. Create and analyze characters
- H. Create and recognize the setting in a story

Materials List

Please see the [Supply List](#) page on LUOA’s website as well as the [Digital Literacy Requirements](#) page for general supplies and requirements with LUOA curriculum. This course does not require any materials beyond those required by all LUOA courses .

Digital Tools

This course makes use of third-party digital resources to enhance the learning experience. These resources have been curated by LUOA staff and faculty and can be safely accessed by students to complete coursework. Please ensure that internet browser settings, pop-up blockers, and other filtering tools allow for these resources to be accessed.

The following resources are used throughout this course:

- Embedded YouTube videos

Course Grading Policies

The students’ grades will be determined according to the following grading scale and assignment weights. The final letter grade for the course is determined by a 10-point scale. Assignments are weighted according to a tier system, which can be referenced on the Grades Page in Canvas. Each tier is weighted according to the table below. Items that do not affect the student’s grade are found in Tier 0.

Grading Scale		Assignment Weights	
A	90-100%	Tier 0	0%
B	80-89%	Tier 1	25%
C	70-79%	Tier 2	35%
D	60-69%	Tier 3	40%
F	0-59%		

Course Policies

Students are accountable for all information in the Student Handbook. Below are a few policies that have been highlighted from the Student Handbook.

Types of Assessments

To simplify and clearly identify which policies apply to which assessment, each assessment has been categorized into one of four categories: Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test. Each applicable item on the course Modules page has been designated with an identifier chosen from among these categories. Thus, a Quiz on the American Revolution may be designated by a title like “1.2.3 Quiz: The American Revolution.” These identifiers were placed on the Modules page to help students understand which Honor Code and Resubmission policies apply to that assessment (see the Honor Code and Resubmission policies on the page to follow for further details).

- **Lesson:** Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Lesson”
These include instructional content and sometimes an assessment of that content. Typically, a Lesson will be the day-to-day work that a student completes.
- **Assignment:** Any item on the Modules page designated as an “Assignment”
Typical examples of Assignments include, but are not limited to, papers, book reports, projects, labs, and speeches. Assignments are usually something that the student should do their best work on the first time.
- **Quiz:** Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Quiz”
This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Quizzes cover a smaller amount of material than Tests.
- **Test:** Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Test”
This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Tests cover a larger amount of material than Quizzes.

Resubmission Policy

Students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for every Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, and Test. However, resubmissions may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- **Lesson:** Students are automatically permitted two attempts on a Lesson. The student may freely resubmit for their first two attempts without the need for teacher approval.
- **Assignment:** Students are intended to do their best work the first time on all Assignments. However, any resubmissions must be completed before the student moves more than one module ahead of that Assignment. For example, a student may resubmit an Assignment from Module 3 while in Module 4, but not an Assignment from Modules 1 or 2. High School students may not resubmit an Assignment without expressed written permission from the teacher in a comment.
- **Quiz:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.
- **Test:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.

If a student feels that he or she deserves a resubmission on a Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test due to a technical issue such as a computer crashing, the student should message his or her teacher to make the request, and that request will need to be approved by a Department Chair.

Consequences for Violations to the Honor Code

Every time a student violates the Honor Code, the teacher will fill out an Honor Code Incident Report, email the advisor, and carbon copy the Department Chair with the report. The advisor will verify which number offense this is and inform the teacher and parent. The

teacher will then leave a comment on the student's assignment and award the appropriate consequences. Replies to any correspondence must be made within 24 hours of the last email received.

- **Warning:** This ONLY applies to high school Lessons and elementary/middle school Assignments and Lessons. These will be taken as a teaching moment for the student.
 - **Lessons:** A zero will be assigned for the question only.
 - **Elementary/Middle School Assignment:** The student must redo their work. However, they may retain their original grade.
- **1st Offense:**
 - **Lesson, Quiz, or Test:** The student will receive a zero on the entire assessment.
 - **Assignment:** The student will:
 - Receive a 0% or 80% of his or her original grade per the teacher's discretion
 - Be required to complete the Plagiarism Workshop
 - Be permitted to retry for a higher grade on the next attempt at the teacher's discretion
- **2nd Offense:** The student will receive a zero and be placed on Academic Probation.
- **3rd Offense:** The student will receive a zero and the Department Chair will determine the consequences that should follow, possibly including Academic Withdrawal from the course or expulsion from the academy.

Scope and Sequence

Middle School Creative Writing

Module 1: Introduction to Creative Writing

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Developing Great Characters

Week 3: Writers Read: *Little Women*

Week 4: Literary Element: Theme

Module 2: Family Storytelling

Week 5: Autobiographies and Biographies

Week 6: Autobiographical Incident

Week 7: Writer's Read: My Father's Legacy

Week 8: Family Memory Narrative

Module 3: The Fairy Tale

Week 9: Introduction to Fairy Tales and
Literary Element: Plot

Week 10: Writer's Read: *The Snow Queen*

Week 11: Writer's Plan: Fairy Tale

Week 12: Writer's Write: Fairy Tale

Module 4: Fantasy

Week 13: Introduction, Literary Element:
Setting, and Writer's Read: *The Lion, the
Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Week 14: Writer's Plan: Fantasy

Week 15: Writer's Write: Fantasy

Module 5: Short Story

Week 16: Introduction

Week 17: Writer's Read: Rip Van Winkle,
and Writer's Plan: Short Story

Week 18: Writer's Write: Short Story