

# Middle School Language and Literature

My name is Elisha Gray, and I teach the middle school English classes at St. Joseph School. I work hard to ensure that students have a strong foundation for high school, regularly reading, researching, and revising aspects of the program as needed. I use direct instruction and plentiful practice reading authentic literature and writing about it.

## Language

### Composition

Students learn the structures of sentences, paragraphs, essays, reports, and narratives and use them to compose their own pieces.

### Grammar

Students learn how sentences work to support their understanding of composition and their foreign language study.

### Conventions

Students learn the conventions of Standard English and apply them in their everyday writing.

### Morphology

Students study the Latin morphemes that make up the secondary layer of English and apply that knowledge to read, spell, and understand Latinate words.

N V V AJ N H N V N SM  
She'll bake a cake if she has flour.  
S V O H S V O

# Literature

## Comprehension

Students read and occasionally listen to challenging fiction and nonfiction texts under the guidance of the teacher. Instruction focuses on identifying where comprehension breaks down and explaining the terms or sentence structures the student doesn't understand.

## Literary Canon

Students systematically survey the foundational stories of our civilization through reading and writing. Fifth-graders look at stories from ancient times, sixth-graders from classical times, seventh-graders from medieval times, and eighth-graders from modern times. Example books include *D'Aulaires' Greek Myths*, *Black Ships before Troy*, the *Famous Men* series, an adaptation of *Julius Caesar*, the *King Arthur Trilogy*, an adaptation of *Macbeth*, *Robin Hood* excerpts, excerpts from the *Canterbury Tales*, an adaptation of *Hamlet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *A Christmas Carol*.

## Vocabulary

Students study core academic vocabulary words and apply their morpheme knowledge to decipher the meanings of unfamiliar words.

## Word Identification

Students learn to read grade-level words with automaticity and passages with fluency.



