



PATTISON HIGH SCHOOL

We don't teach a class, we teach individual students in a class

Course Information

ACADEMIC READINESS: ELL ADVANCED READING, WRITING, AND GRAMMAR

Teacher: Moira Robinson

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Classroom: Period 4 Room #119

Course Description

The AR: Reading, Writing, and Grammar course is designed for intermediate ELL students who are eager to enhance their English skills, with a strong emphasis on improving reading comprehension, writing proficiency, and grammar knowledge. Throughout the course, students will progress from understanding straightforward texts to engaging with more complex materials, including selected short stories from Greek mythology, such as *The Labors of Heracles*, *The Tale of Pandora's Box*, *The Fall of Icarus*, *The Trials of Sisyphus*, *The Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice*, and *The Legend of Medusa*, and concluding with an exploration of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. These captivating stories will help elevate their overall literacy while immersing them in timeless tales of courage, curiosity, and transformation.

In the writing section, students will practice composing thoughtful responses on a variety of topics, focusing on clarity and coherence in their writing. They will learn to use a wider range of vocabulary and effectively incorporate transition words to enhance the structure of their paragraphs. The curriculum will guide students in developing well-organized essays and refining their individual writing styles.

Grammar activities will introduce important concepts and structures, enabling students to strengthen their grasp of English grammar. Through targeted exercises, students will work on improving their grammatical accuracy and applying these rules in both speaking and writing contexts.

Additionally, students will engage in collaborative discussions and peer review sessions based on the readings, allowing them to share insights and refine their skills through constructive feedback. The AR (Academic Readiness) framework ensures that students are well-prepared for more advanced English tasks and academic challenges in their language learning journey.

Course Overview

Big Ideas

<p>Reading Comprehension and Analysis: Students will develop their ability to understand and analyze complex texts, enhancing their critical thinking and comprehension skills through engaging materials like <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>.</p>	<p>Writing Proficiency and Structure: Emphasis will be placed on crafting clear and coherent written responses, where students learn to express their ideas effectively, use varied vocabulary, and structure their writing with appropriate transition words.</p>	<p>Grammar Mastery: Students will focus on understanding and applying key grammatical concepts in both their writing and speaking, building a strong foundation that supports their overall language proficiency and prepares them for more advanced tasks.</p>
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Course Outline

WEEK/ Topic	READING AND WRITING Focus	GRAMMAR Focus	ASSESSMENT
<p>Week 1 Topic: Introduction</p>	<p>Introduction: Share About Yourself Writing Prompt: Describe your experiences and interests. Reflection: How did you spend your summer vacation? What were some highlights? Start reading: <i>The Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice</i></p>	<p>Brief Introduction The eight parts of speech are nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. These fundamental components of English grammar play a crucial role in constructing sentences and conveying meaning.</p>	<p>Students will be able to: Write about themselves and their personal goals using the simple present tenses</p>
<p>Week 2 Topic: Class/School</p>	<p>The writing focus will be on "telling" rather than "showing." Students will continue the story by directly conveying thoughts, feelings, and events in a straight-forward manner. Continue reading: <i>The Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice</i></p>	<p>Simple Present and Present Continuous Sensory Words: muttering, telling, showing, tell, show, abrasion, descriptive, fizzy, clammy, sweaty</p>	<p>Finish the Story Writing Activity Prompt: Below is the beginning of a story. Your task is to continue and finish it, focusing on "telling" rather than "showing." Use clear statements to convey the characters' emotions, thoughts, and actions. Quiz on: <i>The Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice</i></p>

<p>Week 3</p> <p>Fantasy and Courage</p>	<p>Read: <i>The Legend of Medusa</i></p> <p>Writing Prompt: Using the vocabulary words related to "fantasy," create a short story or scene set in a magical world. Incorporate at least five of the vocabulary words in your writing to bring your fantastical setting and characters to life.</p>	<p>Simple Present and Present Continuous</p> <p>Past simple of irregular verbs.</p> <p>Use of coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.</p>	<p>Past tense- (Irregular) Test</p> <p>You are an adventurer who has ventured into the lair of Medusa, a place of eerie silence and countless stone statues frozen in poses of distress. As you carefully explore, you notice something odd—a shimmering pool with inscriptions carved into the rocks surrounding it. The carvings tell a story, revealing a side of Medusa’s curse that no one has ever known. Just as you begin to decipher it, you hear a soft, melancholy voice behind you.</p> <p>What does the story reveal about Medusa’s curse? What will you do next—turn to face her, flee, or try to help her?</p> <p>Vocabulary Words: gorgon, lair, melancholy, curse, shimmering, statues, adventurer, carvings, eerie, petrified, despair, redemption, legend, fate.</p> <p>Homework: Vocabulary from <i>The Legend of Medusa</i></p>
<p>Week 4</p> <p>Topic: Your World</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge Intermediate unit 1</i></p>	<p>Reading: <i>The Fall of Icarus</i>,</p> <p>Vocabulary: <i>Everyday activities</i></p> <p>Understanding how to find the main ideas to a story.</p> <p>8 elements of storytelling: Plot Diagram</p>	<p>Questions and short answer</p> <p>Past simple and Present continuous</p>	<p>Research and present information about the First Peoples- Paper</p> <p>Quiz- Short quiz on vocabulary and chapter</p> <p>Homework: <i>The Fall of Icarus</i>,</p> <p>Create a Plot diagram</p>

<p>Week 5</p> <p>Topic: Memory</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i> <i>Intermediate unit 2</i></p>	<p>Reading: <i>The Tale of Pandora's Box</i></p> <p>Writing: Create a short travel blog (digital or hard-copy)</p>	<p>Past simple and past continuous</p> <p>Used to and would</p> <p>Continue reviewing irregular verbs for past simple and past participle</p>	<p>Homework: Chapter 10 (<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>)(Plus Quiz)</p> <p>Writing Prompt: Letter to Your Younger Self: Have students write a letter to themselves at a younger age, sharing advice, experiences, and lessons learned. This encourages reflection on personal growth</p>
<p>Week 6</p> <p>Topic: Across the Globe</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i> <i>Intermediate unit 3</i></p>	<p>Read <i>The Labors of Heracles</i></p> <p>Reading (short): <i>What's the right type of holiday for you?</i></p>	<p>Comparatives and superlatives</p> <p>Different ways of comparing</p> <p>Features and sights- Adjectives for describing places</p> <p>Review: Past/Simple/Continuous</p>	<p>Activity Prompt: Create a Travel Blog Entry!</p> <p>Imagine you've just returned from an exciting trip to a new place. Write a blog post describing your adventure. Include details about the sights you saw, the food you tried, and any interesting people you met. Use photos, drawings, or maps to enhance your entry. Share your favorite moments and what you learned from your experience. Don't forget to include travel tips for others who might visit!</p>
<p>Week 7</p> <p>Topic: Real Lives/Go for it</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i> <i>Intermediate unit 4 and 5</i></p>	<p>Read: <i>The Labors of Heracles</i></p> <p>Required reading: <i>Pushed too far?</i></p> <p>Writing Prompt: The Labors of Heracles You are a young scribe tasked with following Heracles on one of his famous labors to document his deeds for the ages. As you watch him confront a fearsome challenge—perhaps the Nemean Lion, the Hydra, or the golden apples of the Hesperides—you notice something strange. Heracles seems hesitant, almost as though he is</p>	<p>Present perfect and past simple</p> <p>Present perfect simple and present perfect continuous</p> <p>Future Forms</p> <p>Future clauses with if, when, unless (Subordinating Conjunctions)</p>	<p>Homework:</p> <p>Writing: CV-Activity</p> <p>Imagine your future career! Create a CV for yourself five years from now. Include your name, contact info, a personal statement about your dream job, and your skills. List any education or training you've completed and include fun experiences or achievements. Think of two people you would ask for references. Keep it creative and have fun with it!</p> <p>Homework/Review: <i>Chapters 13 and 14 (The Lion,</i></p>

	<p>hiding a deeper struggle within himself.</p> <p>What challenge is Heracles facing, and how do you interpret his hesitation? Will you step in to help, reveal his secret, or simply record the events as they unfold?</p> <p>Vocabulary Words: labor, scribe, lion, hydra, apples, hesitation, immortal, strength, cunning, challenge, hero, struggle, triumph, legend.</p> <p>Writing: Create a CV</p>		<i>the Witch and the Wardrobe)- Book Finished</i>
Week 8	Review	Review	Midterm Exam
<p>Week 9</p> <p>Topic: True Stories</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge Intermediate unit 6</i></p>	<p>Begin brainstorming and developing your own stories for your final project. Take some time to think about the themes, characters, and settings you'd like to explore.</p> <p>Introduce the Research Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain Purpose: Discuss the importance of research papers in developing critical thinking and writing skills. • Outline the Steps: Provide an overview of the research process, including choosing a topic, researching, organizing, writing, and citing sources. 	<p>Past Perfect</p> <p>Reported Speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tenses often shift back (present to past). - Pronouns and possessives change to match the speaker's perspective. - The reporting verb (e.g., said, told, asked) can indicate the type of statement. <p>Use of Adverbs</p>	<p>Begin brainstorming and developing your own stories for your final project. Take some time to think about the themes, characters, and settings you'd like to explore.</p> <p>Videos: Research World Cultures</p> <p>Writing:</p>
<p>Week 10</p> <p>Topic: Must See!/Social Life</p>	Reading: <i>Pirates of the Caribbean</i>	<p>Ed/ing adjectives</p> <p>The passive</p>	Grammar test

<p><i>Cutting Edge</i> <i>Intermediate unit 7</i> <i>and 8</i></p>	<p>Illustrate the Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can create a poster or visual representation of the story's central themes, such as guilt, madness, or the duality of human nature. They can include quotes from the text that support their theme. 	<p>Polite requests Will/shall responses</p> <p>Review grammar: Past tense, past continuous, past simple</p>	<p>Begin drafting their creative writing assignments</p> <p>Homework: Continue working on your creative writing assignment. (Short story)</p>
<p>Week 11</p> <p>Topic: Stuff</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i> <i>Intermediate unit 9</i></p>	<p>Read Oxford Quick Starter: <i>Pirates of the Caribbean</i></p> <p><i>Writing: Continue writing your short story.</i></p>	<p>Defining relative clauses</p> <p>Quantifiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some / Any Much / Many A lot of / Lots of Few / Little Several / A few All / Most / Some / None Each / Every 	<p>Revision 2 of creative writing prompt: Homework</p> <p>Artistic Interpretation (Project)</p> <p>Grammar Focus: Have students write an artist's statement using descriptive language and varying sentence structures. Encourage the use of figurative language (e.g., similes and metaphors).</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>Topic: Society and Change</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i> <i>Intermediate unit 10</i></p>	<p>Read Oxford Quick Starter: <i>Continue Pirates of the Caribbean</i></p> <p><i>Writing: Continue writing your story prompt 3</i></p>	<p>Making predictions</p> <p>Hypothetical possibilities with if</p>	<p>Homework: Prompt 3 writing</p> <p>Society and Change: Link it to Pirates of the Caribbean</p> <p>Grammar/writing- Past and future connections for the advancement of science.</p>

<p>Week 13</p> <p>Topic: Rules</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i></p> <p><i>Intermediate unit 11</i></p>		<p>Obligation and permission in the present</p> <p>Obligation and permission in the past</p> <p>Linking words: Crime and Punishment</p>	<p>Activity: Ask students to write a short reflection on how the events of Acts 1 and 2 foreshadow later events in the play. They should provide specific examples and discuss the significance.</p> <p>Continue the story</p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>Topic: Your Choice</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge</i></p> <p><i>Intermediate unit 12</i></p>	<p>Writing: Finalize your short story</p> <p>Reading: Read over your own work. Continue to make final changes.</p> <p>Listening: <i>The Toughest Decision of their Lives</i></p> <p>Reading: <i>How to make decisions</i></p>	<p>Could have, should have, would have</p> <p>Hypothetical situations in the past with if</p>	<p>Complete your final draft of your Creative writing assignment.</p>
<p>Week 15</p>	<p>Review</p>	<p>Review</p>	<p>Final Test</p>

Assessment Guidelines:

<p>In- class Participation and Attendance</p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>Writing exercises will emphasize advanced grammar, fluency, and vocabulary enrichment. Students will engage with prompts in their journals or notebooks at the start and/or end of each class, earning daily participation marks for their contributions.</p> <p>Vocabulary activities will occur during class, introducing new terms through interactive and engaging exercises. Students will practice incorporating these words into sentences and discussions, enhancing their understanding and retention in meaningful contexts.</p> <p>Grammar lessons will be seamlessly integrated into writing tasks, allowing students to apply advanced grammar rules in real-world contexts. They will complete focused exercises and receive constructive feedback to refine their proficiency and writing style.</p>
<p>Weekly Reading Comprehension, Writing and Grammar Quizzes</p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>Students will complete assigned tasks related to reading, writing, and vocabulary, utilizing a combination of online platforms, paper assignments, and class discussions. They are expected to read more complex texts,</p>

		respond to in-depth writing prompts, and engage in advanced vocabulary exercises to deepen their comprehension. This integrated activity typically occurs on Fridays, providing students with the opportunity to share their insights and collaboratively enhance their skills.
Mid-term Exam	20%	The course will feature reading activities that concentrate on advanced comprehension and vocabulary development, enabling students to strengthen their language proficiency at the advanced level. Writing exercises will focus on crafting more complex responses and guided practice, with prompts designed to encourage students to articulate their ideas clearly and effectively. These prompts will also mirror the types of questions found in English proficiency exams, such as IELTS. Vocabulary activities will be integrated throughout the course to enhance language skills and reinforce learning, ensuring students can use new terms in context.
Final Exam	20%	The final exam will include sections on reading comprehension and writing.

Required Course Materials:

Please bring the following to class every day:

- Journal (Composition) Notebook and/or Laptop Computer
- Worksheets (to be given by the teacher)
- A pen and/or a pencil
- A positive attitude

Classroom Expectations:

1. Attend class punctually.
2. Notify in advance if you anticipate an absence.
3. Use English as the primary language in class to enhance your learning experience and accelerate your progress.
4. Adhere to classroom rules, which will be introduced during the first week of classes.
5. Always cultivate a culture of respect towards yourself and your peers.

I have read and agreed to the class expectations

Signature