

Riverside Middle School Language!Live Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Rogers

Room: F122

Phone: 355-7951

Email: sprogers@greenville.k12.sc.us

Textbook/Workbook : Dr. Louisa Moats and Jane Fell Greene, Ed.D.

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Learning, Developmental Goals, and Strands

Reading proficiency occurs when word recognition becomes automatic and language comprehension becomes strategic. Students must develop the foundational skills of reading and the ability to make meaning of letters and words as well as sentences, paragraphs, and whole texts, while acquiring content knowledge and the vocabulary and grammar knowledge necessary for language development to occur. This program uses the following strands: Reading Foundational Skills, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Writing.

Introduction

Language!Live is a program that blends personalized, online learning with teacher directed instruction to empower struggling learners to close the learning gap between themselves and their peers. This consistent instructional approach ensures students are working toward grade level literacy. Students will experience two key instructional elements- Word Training and Text Training. These two distinct components combine to build essential fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

Instructional Units and Sequencing *(Student will begin in the suggested lesson based upon his/her RIT scores)*

Level 1 Units 1-12

Unit 1

Primary Text: Batty About Bats!

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Bats

Unit 2

Primary Text: Africa Digs

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Paleontology; digging in Africa

Instructional Texts:

Boston's Big Dig

Genre: Informational

Benefits of Exercise

Genre: Informational

Two Giant Animals

Genre: Informational

Unit 3

Primary Text: Gemini: The Twins

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Constellations

Decodable Text:

The Big Dogs and the Rams

Genre: Literary

Instructional Text:

Earthy Twins

Genre: Informational

Unit 4

Primary Text: Jazz: The Recipe

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Jazz Music

Decodable Text:

Stuck in the Mud

Genre: Literary

Instructional Text:

What a Wonderful World of Jazz

Genre: Informational

Unit 5

Primary Text:

Coming Clean About Toxic Pollution

Genre: Informational-Persuasive

Content Focus: Toxic Pollution

Decodable Text:

Quite a Bike Ride

Genre: Literary

Instructional Text:

Rachel Carson

Genre: Informational

Unit 6

Primary Text: Censorship

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Censorship

Secondary Text:

Dear Congressman Whipple

Genre: Literary-Letter

Instructional Texts:

Web Wins

Genre: Informational

A Day In the Life

Genre: Informational

Unit 7

Primary Text: Whale Song

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Whales

Secondary Text: Dolphin Talk

Genre: Literary-Poem

Instructional Texts:

Whale Watching

Genre: Informational

Two Types of Whales

Genre: Informational

Unit 8

Primary Text: How Bugs Bug Us

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Insects

Secondary Text:

Bugs in Medicine

Genre: Informational

Decodable Text:

Plans for the Big Bash

Genre: Literary

Instructional Texts:

Bugs Live

Genre: Informational

Chinch Bugs

Genre: Informational

Spider Webs

Genre: Informational

Point of View

Literary

Jill and Rosa

Genre: Literary

Unit 9

Primary Text: The Time Machine

Genre: Literary-Narrative

Content Focus: Time Travel

Instructional Texts:

Cars of the Future?

Genre: Informational

Butterfly's Bet

Genre: Literary-Folktale

My New Respect for Spiders

Genre: Literary-Narrative

Unit 10

Primary Text: Hurricane!

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Hurricanes

Decodable Text:

The Storm

Genre: Literary

Instructional Texts:

Tsunami

Genre: Informational

Cloud Seeding

Genre: Informational

This is Jack Olsen, the Voice of KOKA Radio

Genre: Literary-Radio Narrative

Unit 11

Primary Text: Twisters

Genre: Informational

Content Focus: Tornadoes

Instructional Texts:

Earthquakes

Genre: Informational

Frightening Powers of Nature

Genre: Informational

Compare Internet and Print

Genre: Informational

Unit 12

Primary Text: The Gorgon's Head

Genre: Literary

Content Focus: Mythology

Secondary Texts:

Mythological Women

Genre: Informational

Decodable Texts:

Genre: Literary

Instructional Texts:

Heroes from Mythology

Genre: Informational

Myths from Ancient Cultures

Genre: Informational

Level 2 Units 1-12

Unit 1

Excerpt from Holes

Text Type: Literature-Novel

"The Science of Catching Criminals"

Text Type: Informational-Expository

Unit 2

"Thank You, M'am"

Text Type: Literature-Poetry

“We Real Cool”

Text Type: Literature-Poetry

Unit 3

Excerpt from The Outsiders

Text Type: Literature-Novel

Excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank

Text Type: Literature-Drama

Unit 4

“The Circuit”

Text Type: Informational-Autobiography

The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Text Type: Informational- Autobiography

Unit 5

Excerpt from Breaking Night

Text Type: Informational-Memoir

“From Homeless to Harvard”

Text Type: Informational-Expository

Unit 6

“The Symbol of Freedom”

Text Type: Informational-Expository

“I Am Prepared to Die”

Text Type: Informational-Speech

Unit 7

Excerpt from White Fang

Text type: Literature

“Return of the Wolves”

Text Type: Informational

Unit 8

“The White Wolf of the Hartz Mountains”

Text Type: Literature-Short story

Who Speaks for Wolf

Text Type: Literature-Learning story

Unit 9

“The Mysterious Human Brain”

Text Type: Informational

Graphic Novel of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Text Type: Graphic Novel

Unit 10

North High School Letter

Text Type: Letter and Policy-Persuasive/Informational

“Say Yes to Free Dress!”

Text Type: Persuasive

Unit 11

Excerpt from the Good Earth

Text Type: Literature-Novel

Excerpt from Nectar in a Sieve

Text Type: Literature-Novel

Unit 12

Part 1 of the Excerpt from My Sister’s Keeper

Text Type: Literature-Novel

Part 2 of the Excerpt from My Sister’s Keeper

Text Type: Literature-Novel

Assessing, Evaluating, and Recording Students’ Progress

Student grades are determined using the District grading scale, which is posted in our room. Grading is based on the school district weighting system of 50% minor and 50% major. All tests are online and I am available for tutoring before and after school upon request.

All of my grades are in my grade book and students may know their average upon request. Language!Live is a self-paced program to meet individual needs. The following is subject to change to meet the needs of my students.

Quarter 1

Baseline Assessment

Language Live Level 1 content mastery

DDS and ORF score monitoring

Word Training proficiency monitoring

Quarter 2

Language Live Level 1 content mastery

Benchmark Assessment

DDS and ORF score monitoring

Word Training proficiency monitoring

Quarter 3

Language Live Level 2

Benchmark Assessments

DDS and ORF score monitoring

Word Training proficiency monitoring

Quarter 4

Language Live Level 2

Benchmark Assessments

DDS and ORF score monitoring

Word Training proficiency

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and under	F

Rules and Procedures

Classroom rules are posted on the wall of the classroom. My classroom rules are simple and easy to follow.

Be Prompt: Be in your seat before the bell rings.

Be Prepared: Have your materials every day

Be Polite: Respect yourself, me, and Classmates.

Classes have created Social Contracts for themselves and their classmates.

Language Live Social Contract

Honest

Listen for Understanding

Safe

Nice

Respectful

Encourage Others

Team Work

Patience

Be Prepared

Give Compliments Often

Communicating With Parents

Parent contact is made regularly and I respond promptly to all messages from parents. Notes will be written for a variety of reasons in your child's agenda. A log is kept of all parental contacts. Parents may contact me through the school or directly through my email address sprogers@greenille.k12.sc.us.

Homework Policy

Students can log into Language!Live for reinforcement activities but no homework will be given.