

A R R O W C H R I S T I A N



Teaching the Classics Middle School Literature Class

Instructor: Bridget Williams

Course Description:

Teaching the Classics is a literary analysis program by Adam and Missy Andrews that uses the Socratic Method of questioning to engage students in meaningful discourse about works of literature. It helps students to develop an appreciation for literature as they learn to think deeply through the process of reading and discussing great books. The students will learn how authors use literary devices to enrich the story. They will learn to identify the parts of a story such as the exposition, rising action and climax of a story. They will also learn to analyze a story for plot, conflict, setting, character, and theme as they discover great works of children’s and young adult literature. A Selection of classic literature, short stories and poetry will be used for the course.

Course Expectations:

Students will be expected to complete any assigned reading (as listed on the syllabus) prior to class time each week. They will also be expected to participate in class and to be actively involved in completing analysis exercises in class. Keeping up with assignments will allow students to participate in classroom discussions and activities and will enable them to progress in skill development.

Homework: approximately 1-2 hours per week

Textbooks and Materials:

1.5 inch binder and 8 tabbed dividers

Will need to purchase (or check out from the library) novels for the course. (Copies of poems and short stories will be provided by the teacher)

Date/Week		Lesson	In Class	At Home
/ / 2019	1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The Power of Literature - * Establish Course Purpose- To unlock the Story, and to grow in wisdom and understanding. * Shoe Box surprises – for introducing some of the books that will be enjoyed this semester. *Introduce Literary Structure: with a discussion of “Style and Context” by reading the Poem: Paul Revere’s Ride with the students. Discuss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Re-read Paul Revere’s Ride and circle words that are unfamiliar. *Look up a few facts about Longfellow to share in class for context. *Begin reading: <u>The Hobbit</u>
/ / 2019	2	Elements of Fiction: Plot and Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue discussion about style and context of “Paul Revere’s Ride”. Use facts brought in by students about Longfellow to discover more about the context of the poem. . * Read aloud “The Story of Ferdinand” to introduce Plot and Conflict. Guide students in filling out these elements on a story chart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Students should continue to read <u>The Hobbit</u> Pre-read short story : “After Twenty Years” from homework handout. Write down a few facts about the author (O.Henry) for context.
/ / 2019	3	Elements of Fiction: Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Read Picture Book: “All the Places to Love” *Teach/Focus on Setting and ask Socratic questions on this element. * Guide students in filling out a story chart for “All the Places to Love”. Discuss the context & setting in “After Twenty Years” Teach the concept of “theme” in a story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Complete the Story Chart for “After Twenty Years” * Finish the book: <u>The Hobbit</u>

Book List for Teaching the Classics classes

We will occasionally add in short stories and poetry, but copies of those selections will be provided by the teacher.

- *The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien*
- *Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers by Ralph Moody*
- *The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald*
- *Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stephenson*
- *The Green Ember by S.D. Smith*
- *Old Yeller by Fred Gipson*
- *Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric Kelly (Renaissance Period)*
- *The Hawk that Dare not Hunt by Day – Scott O’Dell (Reformation)*

Wednesday class will also read: The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

Alternate titles (to possibly switch out with Little Britches since there are several boy books and not any specifically for girls)

- *Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery*
- *Little Women by Louisa May Alcott*
- *Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry (not about a girl, but most girls like horses)*