



2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Literature Analysis GVL

Monday AND Wednesday

Two separate book lists on a two-year rotation.

Students may take this course in both seventh grade and eighth grades without repeating reading content.

Grades: 7th Grade, 8th Grade

Fees: \$360 per year

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Purchase an unabridged copy of each of the following books:

2025-2026 BOOKLIST

- **Summer Reading Homework:** Click on this [link](#) for the summer booklist and be ready to share the title, author, your opinion of the book and give a brief synopsis. Due at the first class
- [Treasure Island](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson, ISBN 0375756825; (Lexile measure 570)

- **Short stories:** “The Diamond Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant and “The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry (teacher will provide)
- [The Hound of the Baskervilles](#) by Arthur Conan Doyle ISBN 1497483646 (Lexile measure 1010)
- **Poetry:** selected works by Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and others (teacher will provide)
- [Anne of Green Gables](#) by Lucy Maud Montgomery, ISBN-13 : 978-0553213133 (Lexile measure 970)
- **Nonfiction:** selected works by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, and others (teacher will provide)
- [Tom Sawyer](#) by Mark Twain, ISBN 979-8749478112 (Lexile measure 560)
- [Twelfth Night](#) by William Shakespeare, ISBN 1586638513

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

- Every student in grades 7-12 taking a Literature class at UHC must have access to either an electronic copy or a hard copy of the *Blue Book of Grammar*. You will only need to purchase this book once per family, and your student(s) will use it as a reference for all UHC Literature classes. You can purchase a hardcopy [HERE](#).

Course Description

This class has two primary goals: to introduce the basic concepts of literary analysis and to introduce students to classic works they might not be ready to read on their own, but can enjoy with the support and guidance provided by an engaging teacher and class.

Students will learn ways to approach and appreciate challenging literature and will practice the skills of close literary analysis. They will analyze and respond to literature through discussion, written assignments, projects, presentations, tests, and a variety of fun, hands-on activities. Students will learn how to prepare and participate in Socratic Seminar.

This reading material is at an upper middle school level. In choosing this class, parents should consider the amount of reading required by students' other subjects

and the level of parental support and involvement each individual student will need in order to understand and enjoy reading at this level. Books can be read and/or listened to for auditory support. Please read [UHC Middle School Literature for 7th/8th Grade](#) for further details.

*Note: This course satisfies required literature and vocabulary instruction, but please note that this is not a complete English Language Arts course for the student. The teaching parent will need to add the other components of a middle school ELA course: grammar and composition.

To be successful in this class:

Students should be able to follow an assignment calendar for assignments, read an average of 50-75 pages per week, participate in teacher-facilitated class discussions, and follow directions to participate in a variety of assignments that may include creative writing (no formal essays), projects, test/quizzes, and presentations on the works studied.

Parents must be prepared to monitor and support the student's reading and guide him or her in following the teacher's instructions to complete essays, projects, and other assignments.

This class employs **two separate book lists on a two-year rotation**, so students can take it in seventh grade, eighth grade, or both without repeating books. Students are welcome to use audio and electronic versions for reading at home, but paper editions of the books are required in class. No e-readers permitted in class.

The specific editions suggested are recommended, not required, but any edition substituted must be unabridged. After the ISBN for each book (except for drama and poetry, which are rated differently) you can find the Lexile score, which is an estimate of the reading level for each book. You can learn more about Lexile scoring, what it means, and how to use it [here](#).

2026-27 Booklist (subject to change)

- **Summer Reading Homework:** Click on this [link](#) for the summer booklist and be ready to share the title, author, your opinion of the book and give a brief synopsis. Due at the first class
- [The Hobbit](#) by JRR Tolkien, ISBN 978-0547928227, (Lexile score 1000)
- [Agatha Christie](#) short stories- compare and contrast unit focusing on Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. ISBN 0062074423
- [The Secret Garden](#) by Frances Hodgson Burnett, ISBN 978-9386538994, (Lexile score 920)
- [The Giver](#) by Lois Lowry, ISBN 9780544336261, (Lexile score 760)
- **Nonfiction:** selected works by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, and Helen Keller (**teacher will provide**) as well as current event news articles approved by the teacher and parent.
- **Poetry:** selected works by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Langston Hughes, and others (**teacher will provide**)
- [Cyrano de Bergerac](#) by Edmond Rostand, ISBN 0486411192

Credit Option:

8th Grade students enrolled in IEW 3 in addition to this class may pursue an English 1 high school credit with the completion of additional HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL reading assignments. 8th Graders pursuing this option must be academically mature with teaching parents developing, teaching, and implementing additional high school level course work.

NOTE: High school credit for eighth graders is contingent on the approval of the your accountability association and detailed documentation of coursework. **See suggested guidelines.**



Meet Claudia Simpson

Education: I received my Bachelor of Science degree from Anderson University and a Master of Arts from Furman University in Greenville, SC.

Teaching experience: I began my teaching career in 1994 as a classroom teacher in middle school English language arts. I also taught social studies, economics, US history, world history, and study skills. After receiving National Board Certification in Early Adolescent English Language Arts, I taught Literature-based Instruction in middle school. I attended Anderson School District Five Principal's Academy in 2001-2002 and served in curriculum administration until 2007. After retiring from public school, I continued tutoring students from elementary age through high school until 2022.

Homeschool experience: My own daughter was homeschooled by me from 1983-1991.

Certifications: My undergraduate certification was K-8 Elementary Education. I was National Board Certified in Early Adolescent English Language Arts in 2000. My Master's degree is in educational administration and school supervision.

UHC Courses Taught: I've enjoyed substitute teaching a variety of classes and grade levels for UHC during the 2023-24 school year, 7th & 8th grade literature
Began teaching at UHC in 2024

Meet Kelsey Cary

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Middle Grades Education from the University of North Georgia and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Kennesaw State University. Kelsey also has a Specialist's Degree in Reading, Language, and Literature from the University of Georgia.

Teaching Experience: Kelsey has taught 7th/ 8th Grade English Language Arts from 2017- 2024.

Certifications: Certified Secondary English Language Arts and Middle Grade Social Sciences.

UHC Courses Taught: 7th/ 8th Grade Literary Analysis

Began teaching at UHC in 2025.

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