English/Language Arts I is a two-semester course aligned to the 2020 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts (ELA). The course provides an overview of literature in fiction and nonfiction genres. Students read short stories, poems, a full-length novel, and a full-length Shakespeare play, analyzing the use of elements of literature in developing character, plot, and theme. Each unit also includes informational texts inviting students to consider the historical, social, and literary context of the main texts they study. Throughout the course, students respond to others' claims and support their own claims in essays, discussions, and presentations, consistently using thorough textual evidence. The range of texts includes canonical authors such as William Shakespeare, Franz Kafka, and Elie Wiesel, as well as writers from diverse backgrounds, such as Lucille Clifton and Li-Young Lee.

There are no required materials for this course.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: The Short Story, Part 1

- The Shape of a Story
- Setting, Character, and Dialogue
- Point of View, Tone, and Theme
- Wrap-Up: The Short Story, Part 1

Unit 2: The Short Story, Part 2

- Magical Realism
- Gothic Literature
- Wrap-Up: The Short Story, Part 2

Unit 3: Poetry

- Reading Poetry
- The Shape of Poetry
- Poetry and Art
- Wrap-Up: Poetry

Unit 4: The Novella: Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis

- Translation
- Context and Theme
- Kafka's Hero
- Wrap-Up: The Novella: Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Drama: Shakespeare's Macbeth

- Murder and Mayhem and Macbeth
- The Supernatural in Shakespeare

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- Interpretations of Heroism
- Wrap-Up: Drama: Shakespeare's Macbeth

Unit 7: The Rhetoric of Argument

- Understand Argument Fallacies
- Responding to Challenging Perspectives
- Wrap-Up: The Rhetoric of Argument

Unit 8: The Rhetoric of Speeches

- Speech: Women's Rights
- Speech: Civil Rights
- Speech: Human Rights
- Wrap-Up: The Rhetoric of Speeches

Unit 9: Reinterpreting Fiction

- The War of the Worlds: The Book
- The War of the Worlds: The Radio Broadcast
- The War of the Worlds: Afterward
- Wrap-Up: Reinterpreting Fiction

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

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