

CVCA Writing and Rhetoric: grades 7 and 8

Session 2 -Classical Education

Fall 2020 – Citrus Valley Christian Academy

Instructor: Mrs. Nikki Sheftick

Phone: (909) 963-6860

Email: Mrs.Nikkisheftick@gmail.com

Dear CVCA Parents & Students,

I am looking forward to a great year as we embark on a new academic year of 2020-21, and know that our God will see us through any and all of the challenges and Joys we encounter! I would like to offer a Writing and Rhetoric Class using Book 4, titled '*Chreia and Proverb*', and Book 5, titled '*Refutation & Confirmation*'. This class will be offered for the 7th and 8th grades, as a ballpark idea for the typical age range, however the material can be covered at a younger or older age. It is described as a Creative approach to the Classical Progymnasmata with a series of 12 books. I find that each lesson is rich with great thought provoking character training material; mixed with a nice blend of writing, grammar, and syntax exercises. However, every few weeks we will spend an entire class on grammar, spelling and skill development, which should be done systematically at home on a weekly basis. Please message me if you have any questions, or need suggestions on curriculum.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Our objectives are: 1. increase our understanding of the English language (spoken and written) 2. Grow in character by studying God's Word and our historical and royal cultures. 3. Add knowledge and practise in sentence variation, paragraph writing, and the forming of Chreias, which are likened to informative essays, and comparison as well as contrast essays. 4. Book 5 takes the student into the skills of supporting an argument and confirming the truth of a statement with facts.

COURSE of study and Layout of each lesson:

Tell It Back- Narration of the story- immediately following the reading of the story.

Talk About It- Analyzing the story, and comparing it to other literary works, or their own life.

Go Deeper- Building vocabulary, and understanding the nuances of the text better.

Writing Time Includes dictation, sentence play, and the writing of the paragraphs, and Chreia

Copiousness- learning to copy patterns used in example sentences, or writing styles

Fable- Using animals that act like people to show various lessons, and to duplicate proverbs or moral lessons taught by a famous person.

The 5 W's paragraph- Writing a paragraph to explain the wise saying that is being studied.

Point of View- Learning to change the point of view in your own writing or the studied writings given in the lesson.

Speak It- A variety of exercises are given throughout the book to give opportunity for the students to speak out loud about the topic given in the lesson, in front of the class, sometimes using drama, and always using creative speaking techniques.

TEXT

Writing and Rhetoric Book 4, titled '*Chreia and Proverb*'

Book 5, titled '*Refutation & Confirmation*'.

There are 12 lessons in each book, and we will cover all 24 of the lessons.

HOMEWORK:

This English course will be taught on Wednesdays, allowing four days to complete the homework. Each week the sections that are covered in class, and at home will vary, giving the students a chance to grow in each of the aspects listed above, as there is too much to cover in any of our given class periods. Please see the syllabus for the extra details regarding homework and the expectations for this course.

GRADING PLAN:

Homework completed - .60

Spelling Program (home)- .10

Grammar Program (home) .10

Weekly quizzes/ tests/ final paragraphs/ Chreias-.20

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A diligent attitude and commitment in completing required work each week. A willing mind to participate in discussion.
- Arrive to class in a timely manner and be prepared to begin lessons with all required class supplies.
- Ask questions of Mrs. Nikki Sheftick, when needing clarification or your curiosity is peaked.
- Complete all homework, and ACTIVELY LISTEN during class discussion and lectures, it is the ONLY way to get the most out of the curriculum.
- Practice courtesy and kindness at all times. Always be encouraging and positive towards your peers.
- Conversations in class are to be limited to approved times, otherwise the focus should be on the lesson.
- I look forward to growing alongside the students, so please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Hold your student accountable for homework each week. I completely understand HOME schooling, and if your family has a particularly full week, please contact me so that I can work with your student on staying engaged with the syllabus. Otherwise, if students tell me that life was too hectic, without a parent note or email, I will send you an email so that we are all on

the same page. I am reasonable and willing to work with students, however, I do not want to promote laziness among any student.

- Please have your student arrive to class on time with all required classroom supplies for their grade level.
- Verify that assignments are completed on schedule by signing all of your student's homework.
- Make sure your student is prepared for discussion each week by asking them about their lessons. (Ask what skills are they learning, and any cultural history they have learned, if they can not answer or remember, please ask them to review their lesson for the week.)
- Please help your child to stay on track. Your support and encouragement is vital to his/her success.
- When correction is necessary it will be done in love. This classroom will follow CVCA's Policy if needed. Please refer to the signed and agreed to Student/Parent Agreement Form.

PARENT'S

SIGNATURE: _____

STUDENT'S

SIGNATURE: _____

