

English Guide Term 2

Mondays: Grammar Basics

So far, we have focused on four parts of speech because our common core target is to be able to use verbals (verb forms used as other parts of speech in a sentence). We have touched on verbals very briefly as we discussed modifiers. This term, we're going to finish up the parts of speech--pronouns, interjections, conjunctions and verbs. We should get to work on verb forms later in the term. We will start the term with a short time spent on capitalization rules in order to make that part of our focus in journal writing this term. One of the dangers with technology is that we forget to apply those capitalization rules when we type. We will still have quizzes often on Mondays over the previous week's lesson. If you struggle with the practice, be sure to see me during passing for extra practice and study helps. At the end of the eight parts of speech, there will be a cumulative assessment.

Wednesdays: Vocabulary

This term's vocabulary will focus on some slightly longer units that will be two weeks apiece. The first will be story terms, a list we already have. It's also a list that will not go away and will have periodic quizzes throughout the year. We'll have a vocabulary list to go with the American revolutionary literature unit. Another list will focus on the depth of knowledge vocabulary terms that we've been doing as part of our journals. (We'll do more journals with those terms before we get to the vocabulary unit on them.) Finally, we'll wrap up with a unit on homophones. It's a long list, but it includes a LOT of already familiar words.

Fridays: Reading

Our Fridays in the first term focused a lot on fictional reading as we completed our novels for the quizzes. This term will try to diversify a bit more with more emphasis placed on non-fiction reading. Some of our reading will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as we do an American revolutionary literature unit.

We will be doing a novel this term. This will be the only book report of the year. The book will be of the students' choosing and will involve some journaling and a final project that will be due before winter break.

Public Speaking:

We are still working on public speaking. This term we will try to do a few impromptu speeches and look at how to prepare a speech. We'll try to get to at least one short prepared speech, as well.

Major Units:

Finally, we're starting our second unit on Courage and Expository Writing. We will be writing an essay for the America and Me Essay Contest. We're also looking at some information on everyday heroes. We'll also be studying the novel The Shadow Club by Neil Shusterman which will concentrate on character development, active-reading strategies and the courage theme. I will be reading this novel aloud to students so that they can focus on their own novels for book reports and the reading for our American revolutionary literature unit.

The American revolutionary literature unit will include pieces about the Boston Tea Party, the Declaration of Independence, John and Abigail Adams, the Revolutionary War and the Constitution. We'll look at historical fiction, the actual text of the Declaration of Independence, letter writing and story terms in these stories.