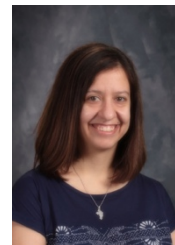




Middle School American Literature and History Yearlong 2021/22



Instructor: Mrs. Sarah Fothergill

Meeting Time: Am. Literature M/W 9:30 am. (ET)
Am. History M/W 11:00 am. (ET)

E-mail: sfothergill.scholé@gmail.com

Office Hours: by appointment

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Rising 6th–8th graders. Students are expected to have proficient reading and emerging writing skills as well as the interest and willingness to grow in discussion skills about literature and history. Students suited for this course will also be cultivating the following scholarship skills:

- Actively engage in note-taking
- Learn annotation of text
- Practice outlining
- Apply teacher critiques
- Adhere to deadlines
- Be responsible for class and project preparedness
- Take initiative to ask questions for understanding and comprehension

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Scholé Academy's Middle School American History and Literature courses are designed to offer a flexible yet integrated introduction to the study of American History and develop the skills necessary for independent scholarship in a restful and supportive learning environment. These middle-school courses will invite students to take a closer look at a various works to provide context and understanding of the broad strokes of American History and Literature. Like other Scholé' history courses, this class will blend "surveying the landscape (considering the whole) and deep dives into great books from American History.

Our study of American Literature and History will teach students to cultivate historical thinking through the engaging study of real people and events that have helped shape the nation they call home. Beginning with Viewpoints exercises (From Socratic Circles by Matt Crider), progressing to annotation of small sections of text, and moving on to asking one another questions from their annotations, students will learn the basics of Socratic discussions, which will guide our interaction as they begin to see the shades of gray and the nuances of people and events. Posing and answering questions will take them deeper into historical events and advance their thinking. Learning how to summarize, complete outlines, and write papers will help them connect information, seeing causes and effects.

Students are asked to consider and engage carefully crafted questions as their window into “the Great Conversation.” Occasionally, the teacher will present historical context through brief lectures, but all other classes are seminar-style discussions on the American texts. Students are assessed for their curiosity, participation, and diligence during discussions, as well as by means of short response papers, essays, projects, and occasional quizzes.

- **Integrated**—Both classes are taught by the same teacher and meet in back-to-back sessions
- **Flexible**—students may take one or both modules (either simultaneously or successively)
- **Introductory**—no background knowledge is assumed or required
- **Survey**—students will gain a broad perspective on civilization
- **Restful**—a modest selection of texts read slowly and carefully; *multum non multa*

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

American History:

- *A History of US* Ten volume set **ISBN: 0195327268**
- *Sacajawea* by Joseph Bruchac
- *The Courage and Character of Theodore Roosevelt* by George Grant, also called *Carry a Big Stick: The Uncommon Heroism of Teddy Roosevelt*
- **OPTIONAL:** *Atlas of American History* by Rand McNally **ISBN-10: 0528015346**
- Various fables, tall tales, and other pdfs provided by teacher

American Literature:

- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
- *Witch of Blackbird Pond* By Elizabeth George Speare
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- *Bound for Oregon* by Jean Van Leeuwen
- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt
- *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson
- *Blue Willow* by Doris Gates
- *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
- *A Treasury of Poetry for Young People* **ISBN-10: 9780806919560**
- Various fables, tall tales, and other pdfs provided by teacher

SCHEDULE FOR AMERICAN LITERATURE AND HISTORY:

CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Class Dates: Begin Wednesday, September 8, 2021; end May 25, 2022

Classes will take place on Monday & Wednesday

- History: 9:30 am. EST, 60–75 min.

- Literature: 11:00 am. EST, 60-75 min.
for 32 weeks and 64 classes.

**The above classes will be provided by me or occasionally by a substitute teacher. In the unforeseen event that I cannot find a substitute teacher and must cancel a class (e.g. due to illness or family emergency), then I will record and post a make-up session, or offer the class at an alternate time.*

OFFICE HOURS: *By appointment.* (Please include time zone in your appointment request. Many thanks!)

AMERICAN LITERATURE AND HISTORY COURSE MAP:

Literature	History
Quarter 1:	
Pre-America (Before 1600) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island of the Blue Dolphins Colonial Period (1630-1735) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witch of Blackbird Pond Revolutionary America (1735-1791) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnny Tremain 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vol 1 Pre-History to 1600s • Vol 2 Thirteen Colonies (1600-1735) • Vol 3 Colonies to Country (1735-1791)
Quarter 2:	
Continue Revolutionary America (1735-1791) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnny Tremain Young Republic & Expansion (1783-1850) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bound for Oregon Civil War & Reconstruction (1820-1866) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Five Aprils 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Vol 3 Colonies to Country (1735-1791) • Vol 4 New Nation (1789-1850) • Vol 5 Liberty for All (1820-1860)
Quarter 3	
Industrial Revolution (1871-1920) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyddie WWI/Depression/Dust Bowl (1914-1933) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Willow New Deal & WWII (1933-1945) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Devil's Arithmetic 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vol 6 Terrible War (1855-1865) • Vol 7 Reconstructing America (1865-1890) • Vol 8 Age of Extremes (1880-1917)
Quarter 4	
Continue New Deal & WWII (1933-1945) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Devil's Arithmetic Postwar America/Civil Rights (1945-1960) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Vol 8 Age of Extremes (1880-1917)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vol 9 War, Peace, and All That Jazz (1918-1945) • All the People (From 1945)
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STUDENT MASTERY PORTRAIT

Students of Middle School History and Literature practice a variety of complex skills which normally take many years to fully develop. Here are the skills which successful students of the course will develop at an age-appropriate level:

General scholarship skills

Socratic Discussion: Formulate questions, define terms, offer examples, compare, contrast, and discover relationships between ideas

Inspectional Reading: Skim, preview books, study the table of contents, search for information

Analytical Reading: Identify key passages, terms, and definitions; outline a passage or short chapter; determine an author's message; evaluate key arguments

Mark a text: Underline key terms; add marginal notes; annotate

Composition: Keep a reading journal, compose a short narrative, respond in paragraph form to a prompt

History Skills

Geography: Identify important information on historical maps

Timeline: Follow a timeline of events which tells the story of the development of the United States of America

Research: Become familiar with the methods of primary research used by historians and archaeologists

Literacy: Learn the vocabulary of the specific period (names of people groups, political entities, wars, places, and artifacts) and general historical inquiry (especially economic, religious, and political concepts)

Appreciation: Cultivate a sense of gratitude for the rich inheritance of Civilization which we enjoy today: art, architecture, science, religion, medicine, literature, philosophy, mathematics, law, ethics, education, and so much more

Literature Skills

Reading comprehension: Practice reading and narrating passages from intermediate and moderately difficult texts from or inspired by classical antiquity

Annotation: Learn to actively read and annotate literature using these steps:

1. circle any vocabulary words that you are unfamiliar with or that you'd have trouble explaining to others
2. underline key phrases
3. keep track of the story or idea as it unfolds through a timeline or summary
4. note word patterns and repetitions or anything that strikes you as confusing or important
5. write down questions in the margins or in your notebook

Literary Analysis: Interpret texts using tools of literary analysis: character, theme, setting, plot development

Moral Philosophy: Weigh the decisions of literary characters according to standards of classical and Christian virtues and vices

Stylistic Development: Study and imitate the poetic and literary styles of classical authors

Student Assessment Categories:

- A. Reading (reading annotation log, journal, oral exam)
 - B. Participation (contribution, participation, student review)
 - C. Composition (formal letter, essay or narration; at least one draft and edit)
 - D. Memory (recitations and key terms)
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ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Sarah Fothergill has been teaching for 12 years. She holds a BA in 7-12 English and History Education and an MA in Secondary Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Throughout her career, Sarah has taught writing, literature, and speaking to both middle and high school students. Sarah is excited to offer Scholé Academy students her passion for studying literature and history, and looks forward to helping them learn, grow, and reflect on “the good, the true, and the beautiful” in everything.

In addition to teaching, Sarah also enjoys leading Sunday school and Vacation Church School classes, and serving as a youth group instructor and chanter at St. George Orthodox Church in Kearney, Nebraska. She also loves spoiling her two young nieces, reading, writing, gardening, and spending time with her husband and two adorable kittens.

