Middle School
English Language Arts
Introductions:

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English Agenda

Middle School English

- Literature/Reading Comprehension (including vocabulary)

- Writing/Composition (including grammar and conventions)

- Speaking & Listening

- 5th Grade Highlights
The Study of Literature

At Yinghua Academy, the study of literature focuses on the teaching of literature skills/concepts while exploring and discussing the relevant themes of diversity, equity, social justice, courage, community, and racism.

Literature Anthologies
- *Reading Street* (Grade 5) & *Prentice Hall Literature* (Grades 6-8)

Novels:
- **Grade 5 Novels** - *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *Tuck Everlasting*, & *Esperanza Rising*
- **Grade 6 Novels** - *Front Desk*, *A Single Shard*, & *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- **Grade 7 Novels** - *Animal Farm*, *Walk Two Moons*, & *Beowulf*
- **Grade 8 Novels**: *Julius Caesar*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, & *Frankenstein*
Writing:

Through our English Language Arts Curriculum, we develop writers who are able to effectively express their ideas and research.

- **“Do Now” writing prompts** that consist of journal entries that give students an opportunity to express their creativity by using vocabulary and figurative language taught throughout the year.

- Reading responses aimed to promote students to reflect upon their independent reading.

- Compositions that use the five steps writing process.
  - Narrative Essays
  - Persuasive Essays
  - Expository Essays
  - Literary Comparisons

- **Academic Performance**
  - European Travel Brochure - Grade 5
  - Radio Drama - Grade 6
  - Stage Play - Grade 7
  - Screenplay - Grade 8

*Do Now:*

Journal Writing - open your journal and write the date at the top of the page and then ....

Look at the picture and write a very short story using the image in the picture to base your story from. Your story must have a conflict within it. (This is a quick write. It does not need to be perfect, but I would like you to have at least written 5 sentences before the time is up)
Speaking & Listening

The development of speaking and listening skills are an integral part of our ELA curriculum. As Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, “Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel.” However, speech loses its power if students do not know how to actively listen. At Yinghua, we focus on developing effective speakers and engaged listeners.

Students learn how to:

- Collaborate with peers on group projects
- Interview
- Analyze media and its impacts
- Entertain through storytelling and performing student created dramas
- Persuade through speeches
- Debate their peers
Highlights of 5th Grade English

- Creation of book covers based off of folktales in *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*
- Project Based Learning: student produced poetry book and recite at their poetry cafe
- Strike Speeches part of novel study
- Academic Performance: students plan an 8 day trip to a European country and create a travel brochure
- Final year to compete in Battle of the Books
- Accelerated Reading & Assemblies