



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



Course Syllabus

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	English Language Arts / English as an Additional Language
Grade Level	4
Teacher	Mr. Arden Ruttan/ Mr. Isaac Kim/ Ms. Alice O'Halloran
Email	aruttan@dishs.tp.edu.tw / ikim@dishs.tp.edu.tw / aohalloran@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION: COURSE OBJECTIVES: The English Language Arts curriculum includes objectives that support students' development in the skills of writing, listening, and oral language. Students will learn the fundamentals of English in the areas of sentence structure, parts of speech, pronouns, and contractions. Students will learn how to construct grammatically correct sentences and will apply Language Arts skills in writing various projects.

Fourth Grade English Language Arts aims at establishing good reading habits while developing comprehension strategies and vocabulary. The students will be introduced to narrative analysis appropriate to their level when reading fiction and non-fiction books confidently, fluently, and independently. These skills are developed through direct instruction and guided practice. Through daily classroom experiences, the children will write fluently and effectively, and they will use speech responsibly to inform, entertain, and influence others. They will be able to listen for a sustained period of time and for a variety of purposes. Pupils will use a wide range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures to clearly express and explain their thoughts, needs, feelings, opinions, and ideas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To use or apply reading strategies such as summarizing, inferring, predicting, monitoring, questioning, and phonics/decoding in either independent or peer reading
2. To identify story structure
3. To describe characters, setting, and plot of a story
4. To summarize the journey of the character in the story
5. To infer and explain the author's point of view
6. To decode longer words
7. To use context clues in understanding words with multiple meanings
8. To write a personal narrative
9. To summarize text
10. To distinguish facts and opinions
11. To recognize and explain the meaning of idioms
12. To demonstrate understanding of figurative language in context
13. To acquire and use vocabulary



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14. To understand the correct use of punctuation
15. To listen to and understand fluent reading
16. To complete writing tasks in accordance with the conventions of Standard English

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Textbooks: Main Text: Houghton Mifflin *Into Reading G4* ISBN 978-0-358-17667-1
Houghton Mifflin *Into Reading G4 Writer's Notebook* ISBN 978-1-328-47012-6
Houghton Mifflin *Into Reading G4 Grammar Practice Workbook* ISBN 978-0-358-24501-8
Houghton Mifflin *Into Reading G4 Know It, Show It* ISBN 978-1-328-45325-9

Useful links:

1. Our school website: <http://www.dishs.tp.edu.tw/>
2. Raz-kids: <https://www.kidsa-z.com/ng/>
3. CommonLit: <https://www.commonlit.org/user/login>
4. Publishers website: https://trunity.org/users/sign_in
5. Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary & Thesaurus: <http://www.m-w.com/home.htm>
6. Reading exercises: www.englishforeveryone.org

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

The quarterly grade will be awarded for all student work based on the following criteria:

- 1) **Class participation, Seatwork, Homework** (30% of quarterly grade)
- 2) **Projects, Quizzes, and Tests** (30% of quarterly grade)
- 3) **Quarter Exam/Project** (30% of quarterly grade)
- 4) **Department Marks** (10% of quarterly grade)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings,



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drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.

- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) <u>4 days of class</u> 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	HMH- Into Reading Module 1 pp. 10-93 (What Makes Us Who We Are) Orientation- Routines and Procedures Reading- The Story of You, Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventure Writing- Module 1- Personal Narrative 1.1-1.10
Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	HMH- Into Reading Module 1 pp. 10-93 (What Makes Us Who We Are) Reading- Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures, Yes! We Are Latinos Writing- Module 1- Personal Narrative 1.1-1.10 Grammar- Topic 1 Sentences- pp. 1-6
Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	HMH- Into Reading Module 1 pp. 10-93 (What Makes Us Who We Are) Reading- Yes! We are Latinos, The Year of the Rat, Writing- Module 1- Personal Narrative 1.1-1.10 Grammar- Topic 1 Sentences- pp. 7-13



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Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	HMH- Into Reading Module 1 pp. 10-93 (What Makes Us Who We Are) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Kitoto the Mighty Writing- Module 1- Personal Narrative 1.1-1.10 Grammar- Topic 1 Sentences- pp. 14-20
Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	HMH- Into Reading Module 2 (Come to Your Senses) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- What are the Five Senses? Writing- Module 2- Description of an Animal 2.1-2.11
Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	HMH- Into Reading Module 2 (Come to Your Senses) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading-The Science Behind Sight, Animal Senses Writing- Module 2- Description of an Animal 2.1-2.11 Grammar- Topic 2 Proper Nouns- pp. 21-26
Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26-Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career	HMH- Into Reading Module 2 (Come to Your Senses) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Blind Ambition, The Game of Silence Writing- Module 2- Description of an Animal 2.1-2.11 Grammar- Topic 2 Possessive Nouns- pp. 27-33



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Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	HMH- Into Reading Module 2 (Come to Your Senses) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Writing- Module 2- Description of an Animal 2.1-2.11 Review and Assessment Exam and/or Project Preparations First Quarter Exams (Half days)
<i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day</i> <i>Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i>	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>	
<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>	
Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer) 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	HMH- Into Reading M3W1L1 – L2 pp. 164-229 (Rise to the Occasion) Reading- Never Give up, Rent Jazz Party Writing- Module 3- Opinion Essay 3.1-3.11 Grammar- Topic 2 Nouns and Pronouns- pp. 34-40
Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24)	HMH- Into Reading Module 3 pp. 164-229 (Rise to the Occasion)



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20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Rent Jazz Party, Hurricanes (A Force of Nature), Writing- Module 3- Opinion Essay 3.1-3.11 Grammar- Topic 2 Nouns and Pronouns- pp. 41-45
Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp	HMH- Into Reading Module 3 pp. 164-229 (Rise to the Occasion) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Hurricanes (A Force of Nature), Catch Me If You Can Writing- Module 3- Opinion Essay 3.1-3.11 Grammar- Topic 2 Nouns and Pronouns- pp. 46-50
Week 4 (14) (November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep	HMH- Into Reading Module 3 pp. 164-229 (Rise to the Occasion) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Catch Me If You Can, My Diary from Here to There Writing- Module 3- Opinion Essay 3.1-3.11 Grammar- Topic 3- Verbs pp. 51-55
Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community	HMH- Into Reading Module 4 pp. 237--302 (Heroic Feats) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Who's a Hero, Prince Charming Misplaced His Bride Writing- Module 4- Writing a Story/Play 4.1-4.9 Grammar- Topic 3- Verb Tenses pp. 56-60
Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest	HMH- Into Reading Module 4 pp. 237--302 (Heroic Feats) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Smokejumpers to the Rescue! Writing- Module 4- Writing a Story/Play 4.1-4.9
Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after	HMH- Into Reading Module 4 pp. 237--302 (Heroic Feats) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Perseus and the Fall of Medusa, Writing- Module 4- Writing a Story/Play 4.1-4.9 Grammar- Topic 3- Verb Tenses pp. 61-65



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school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam	
<i>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</i>	
Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole	HMH- Into Reading Module 4 pp. 237--302 (Heroic Feats) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- St. Augustine: A Story of America Writing- Module 4- Writing a Story/Play 4.1-4.9 Grammar- Topic 3- Auxiliaries pp. 66-70
Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)	HMH- Into Reading Module 4 pp. 237--302 (Heroic Feats) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- St. Augustine: A Story of America Writing- Module 5- Expository Essay 5.1-5.10
<i>December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)</i>	
<i>December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break</i>	



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Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)</i>	
Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:	HMH- Into Reading Module 5 pp. 211—370 (Art Everywhere) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Why Art Centers Matter, The Beatles Were Fab Writing- Module 5- Expository Essay 5.1-5.10 Grammar- Topic 3 Irregular Verbs- pp. 71-75
Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	HMH- Into Reading Module 5 pp. 211—370 (Art Everywhere) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- The Beatles Were Fab, How Can Photos Take Us Back in Time? Writing- Module 5- Expository Essay 5.1-5.10 Grammar- Topic 3 Participles- pp. 76-80
Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd	HMH- Into Reading Module 5 pp. 211—370 (Art Everywhere) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- How Can Photos Take Us Back in Time? Let's Dance Around the World Writing- Module 5- Expository Essay 5.1-5.10 Grammar- Topic 3 Participles- pp. 81-85
Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities	HMH- Into Reading Module 5 pp. 211—370 (Art Everywhere) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- The Art Of Poetry Writing- Module 5- Expository Essay 5.1-5.10 Grammar- Topic 4 Adverbs- pp. 86-90



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30- DYM Charity Concert	
Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUA0 Recollection for MS	HMH- Into Reading Module 6 pp. 14—73 (Models of Nature) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Seven Natural Wonders, Mariana Trench Writing- Module 6- Formal Letter 6.1-6.10 Grammar- Topic 4 Relative Pronouns and Adverbs- pp. 91-95
Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	HMH- Into Reading Module 6 pp. 14—73 (Models of Nature) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Weird and Wonderous Rocks, Writing- Module 6- Formal Letter 6.1-6.10 Grammar- Topic 4 Adjectives- pp. 96-100
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	HMH- Into Reading Module 6 pp. 14—73 (Models of Nature) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Nature's Wonders: Poetry About Our Amazing Earth Writing- Module 6- Formal Letter 6.1-6.10 Grammar- Topic 4 Comparisons- pp. 101-105
<i>February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)</i>	
Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	HMH- Into Reading Module 6 pp. 14—73 (Models of Nature) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Grand Canyon: A Trail Through Time Writing- Module 6- Formal Letter 6.1-6.10 Grammar- Topic 4 Prepositions- pp. 106-110
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13)	Exam and/or Project Preparations Review



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13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Third Quarter Exams (Half days)
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Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	HMH- Into Reading Module 7 pp. 74-145 (Tricksters and Tall Tales) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- A Tale of Traditional Tales, Thunder Rose Writing- Module 7- Imaginative Story 7.1-7.10 Grammar- Topic 5 Negatives- pp. 111-115
<i>March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair</i>	
Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	HMH- Into Reading Module 7 pp. 74-145 (Tricksters and Tall Tales) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- In the Days of King Adobe Grammar- Topic 6 Quotations- pp. 116-120
<i>March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break</i>	
Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	HMH- Into Reading Module 7 pp.74-145 (Tricksters and Tall Tales) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- A Pair Of Tricksters, Writing- Module 7- Imaginative Story 7.1-7.10 Grammar- Topic 6 Punctuation- pp. 121-125



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Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	HMH- Into Reading Module 7 pp. 74-145 (Tricksters and Tall Tales) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading-Then Suns: A Chinese Legend Writing- Module 7- Imaginative Story 7.1-7.10 Grammar- Topic 6 Commas- pp. 126-130
Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	HMH- Into Reading Module 8 pp. 146-197 (Food for Thought) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- To Your Health, Eco-Friendly Food Writing- Module 8- Opinion Essay 8.1-8.9 Grammar- Topic 6 Proper Mechanics- pp. 131-135
Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	HMH- Into Reading Module 8 pp. 146-197 (Food for Thought) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading – Eco-Friendly Food, Kids Rock Nutrition in the Kitchen Grammar- Topic 7 Frequently Confused Words- pp. 136-140
<i>May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams	HMH- Into Reading Module 8 pp. 146-197 (Food for Thought) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Bug Bites Grammar- Topic 7 Abbreviations- pp. 141-145
Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days	HMH- Into Reading Module 8 pp. 146-197 (Food for Thought) Reader's Theater & A-Z Reading Reading- Now You're Cooking Grammar- Topic 7 Spelling- pp. 146-150 Exam and/or Project Preparations Fourth Quarter Exams (Half days)
<i>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</i>	



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Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony	Ancillary Activities Graduations/Recognitions
Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting	Ancillary Activities Graduations/Recognitions/Last Day

"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"