

Literacy Access is pleased to offer the following classes to homeschool students and their families

Writer's creative writing workshops, grades K-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, and 5-6, 7-8.

Ongoing Writer's Workshops give a special opportunity for young writers to develop and deepen their mastery of the writing process in a way that supports creativity, self-esteem, and academic development. Writing fluency, structure, purpose, author's voice, audience awareness, basic writing skills (punctuation, grammar, and spelling), and editing are taught in a fun and creative workshop setting.

Literacy Group for Emerging Writers and Readers, ages 5-7: This special group for children at the beginning stages of literacy is designed to build, strengthen, and solidify skills needed to become independent writers. This group will use interactive writing, a group technique for joint composition where young writers and the teacher share the pen. In interactive writing, independent writing strategies and skills are modeled, as children are supported through the process of hearing sounds in words and connecting those sounds to letters while composing a group message. Children gain practice writing (encoding) and then reading (decoding) the message. In addition, work on proper letter formation, letter-sound connection, and writing fluency will be addressed.

Reading and Author/Theme Study Workshop, grades 2-3, 3-4, 5-6. In these author study groups, students will read pieces of children's literature by the same author or with a common theme, engage in a book discussion, and explore elements of fiction including character, setting, story problem, and resolution. As we build a deep experience of one author or theme, we will then compare and contrast the pieces we have read. Examples of this workshop include the Patricia Polacco Author Study and the Multicultural Cinderella Study.

Cursive, Spelling, and Word Work group, grades 3-5. In this workshop designed specifically to meet the needs of homeschool kids, we will spend time developing word knowledge, building familiarity with high-frequency words, and learning common phonetic patterns which allow kids to learn to spell by analogy. This research-based practice will build each child's knowledge of conventional spelling, as well as increase writing fluency by supporting their ability to write words more quickly and easily. In addition, time will be spent in each session introducing and practicing cursive handwriting.

History, Literature Study and Writer's Workshops, grades 4-8. These twelve-week workshops take students through the study of a period in history (Civil Rights, Slavery, Women's Suffrage, the Cultural Revolution, the Holocaust). Using historical fiction and non-fiction, we study and learn about important historical events. Reading, discussion, and beginning note-taking will be incorporated. We then use our learning to write essays, plays, or monologues about the historical period.

Poetry Writing Workshop, grades 4-5, 6-7.

Individualized Reading Instruction, K-7. At Literacy Access we offer individualized instruction designed to solidify reading skills and build each child's repertoire of reading strategies, based on an initial evaluation of each child's particular literacy needs.

Individualized Writing Instruction, K-12. One-on-one writing sessions are also offered to support writers at all levels of development, from creative writing to expository forms. Writing fluency, purpose and format, author's voice, audience awareness, and basic writing skills are taught as appropriate within the context of the child's writing. When focusing on the craft of fiction and personal narrative, we look at elements of story including character, setting, plot,

the use of dialogue, description, action, and more. Emergent (beginning) writers are also welcome, with an emphasis on hearing sounds in words, translating sounds into print (encoding), reading the message (decoding), letter formation, phonemic awareness, and development of creative story ideas.

For older writers, we can focus on a variety of writing styles that support academic development, including creative writing, literature response essay, persuasive essay, research and expository writing, book reviews, and more.

Please contact Ivy Sandz at Literacy Access for information on fees, class times, or to schedule individual sessions. Located in North Berkeley (510) 528-8773 or e-mail ivy@literacyaccess.com