



# 2021 SUMMER PROGRAM

**WHEN?** June 21 to August 27, 2021

**WHO?** Students aged 3 to 18

**WHERE?** Unit 1102, 11/F, Lee Garden One, 33 Hysan Avenue,  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

**HOW?** Contact us at 2541-1336 or [info@theopenclassroom.com.hk](mailto:info@theopenclassroom.com.hk)

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# ZOOM EXCLUSIVE COURSES

This summer, we are delighted to be offering a range of challenging Zoom exclusive courses including history, public speaking and creative writing.

Learn from the comfort of home!



# ZOOM SUMMER TEACHERS

Our Zoom exclusive courses will be taught by our instructors, Ms. Bailey and Mr. Michael.



## BAILEY CAMPBELL

Bailey is a current student at the Wharton Business School, studying Marketing and Business Analytics. Her experience with public speaking spans across many organizations, as she has taught multiple leadership workshops across the U.S. and has given speeches in front of audiences of over 5,000 people. Additionally, she competed in debate for 4 years and made it to nationals while in high school. Currently, she is part

of the staff that produces TED Talks at the University of Pennsylvania.

Aside from that, Bailey has spent her Fridays teaching gifted children how to 3-D model, and over her summers in high school she ran a sports literature writing workshop. In her free time, she enjoys writing screenplays and analyzing graphic novels. She has completed 14 AP classes with high marks, and she has received a 35 on her ACT and 1520 on her SAT. She has been a tutor to over 50 students in the last 5 years.

## MICHAEL GULINO

Michael is a current third-year student at the University of Pennsylvania with majors in Urban Studies and minors in Psychology and International Relations in the College of Arts and Sciences. Michael is also an International Baccalaureate graduate from West Morris Mendham High School.



Throughout his collegiate years, Michael has committed himself to education and educational development. He has worked as a nutrition educator with the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative, teaching college career readiness, work-ready skills, and nutrition education. Michael is also the Student Group Coordinator at the Netter Center for Community Partnerships where he focuses on student training at Penn. He serves as the leader of Nonprofit Connect, an initiative focused on matching volunteers with nonprofits, and as the Academic Inquiry Intern with EducationUSA Russia where he assists Russian high schoolers in applying to American universities. Academically, in high school and currently in pursuit of his major, Michael has taken extensive history courses including those focused on ancient history, East Asian politics, World War II, and more.

# CREATIVE CREATIONS | G3-8

Get your imagination ready! In this course, students will explore their creativity through writing and art, producing final outputs that are uniquely theirs. From sports to stage plays, these workshops provide opportunities to develop niche skills and interests.

GENRE	G3-4	G5-6	G7-8
Journalism	Develop eye-catching headlines to accompany your own articles	Learn how to effectively interview with open-ended questions	Develop a strong hook with the 5 W's and use effective captioning for your articles
Sports Literature	Tell an exciting story about your favorite sport	Read short stories about sporting events and document reactions	Research your favorite player and write up their biography
Screen-writing	Write a dialog between multiple characters	Create a character sketch followed by a dialog between that character and another	Character sketch, dialog, and indicate actions and tone in scripts
Creating Graphics	Understand the compelling nature of social media and create your own post	Pick a company to market their products/services, use media tools to aid in your production of a marketable infographic	Use research to demonstrate claims visually. Compile facts into an informative presentation or social media post
Graphic Novels (Comics)	Create a superhero and develop their story	Create a 12-panel comic with a climax	Create a 16-panel comic with narration, sound boxes and a climax



# BUILDING A NARRATIVE: CRASH COURSE | G5-12

Applications to schools often require a personal essay that speaks to the character, interests, passions, and life experiences of the applicant. A strong narrative/personal statement can mean the difference between admission or rejection. In this 2-week crash course, students will learn how to brainstorm, plan, and write an application-ready personal statement for themselves.

(The course material will cater to G5-8 students applying for international/boarding schools and G9-12 students for university applications.)

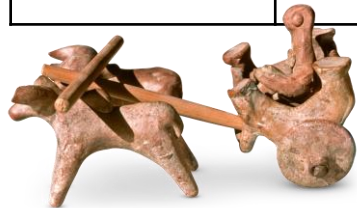
WEEK	FOCUS	SUMMARY	
1	Brainstorming & Story Mapping	In this week, students will learn the basics of planning to write personal statements including brainstorming topic ideas, identity and story mapping, and building story outlines.	
		G5-G8: Students will brainstorm, map, and outline narrative ideas using boarding/international school applications, prompts, and sample essays as example material.	G9-G12: Students will brainstorm, map, and outline narrative ideas using general university applications, supplemental essays, prompts, and sample essays as example material.
2	Drafting & Editing	This week will have students take the skills they have learned and put them to use in drafting strong personal statements. Students will practice and develop writing strategies, step into the mind of admissions officers, and finally produce their narrative.	
		G5-G8: Students will practice their writing skills, learn and incorporate basic editing and drafting strategies, and write their narrative using boarding/international school prompts.	G9-12: Students will reinforce their writing skills, learn and incorporate basic editing skills, and write their narrative using university prompts.

# HISTORY: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS | G4-8

Ancient civilizations form the backbone of our world. In this course, students will learn to appreciate the foundations of humanity and understand civilizations through their cultures, religions, and other archaeological artifacts. Students will analyze primary sources, learn how to form hypotheses and make inferences. By the end of each unit, students will have produced a project on a specific aspect of the civilization studied.



UNIT	SUMMARY
Egypt	Ancient Egypt was once the land of tall pyramids and pharaohs that ruled the Nile. This unit will cover the history and geography of Ancient Egypt, its religion and culture, and its impact on the modern world.
Mesopotamia	Mesopotamia and its first city-states are often considered the birthplace of human civilization. This unit will cover the history of Mesopotamia, its culture, inventions, and connections to other ancient civilizations, and its impact on future cultures.
Indus Valley	The Indus Valley Civilization is known for its big cities, technology, and mystery. This unit will look at the ancient cities of the Indus Valley, the history of the civilization, and its culture and religion.
Mesoamerica /Inca	Mesoamerica and the Incan empire were centuries-long Native American empires. This unit will look into the histories of the Maya, Aztec, and Incan peoples, their cultures and religious practices, and the eventual colonization of North America.
Africa	Africa, the origin of humanity, was once the land of rich and powerful empires. This unit will look at these often forgotten empires and their histories and cultures.
China	China is the origin of thousands of important inventions and the longest surviving ancient civilization in human history. This unit will discuss China's early dynasties, look at early Chinese religion and culture, and draw connections between ancient and modern China.



# HISTORY: FAMOUS FIGURES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY | G3-8

Throughout the past century, many influential individuals have transformed the world as it was - good or bad. In this course, students will learn about the lives, experiences, and influence of 6 famous 20<sup>th</sup>-century figures through primary and secondary sources. At the end of each unit, they will produce a biography on a 20<sup>th</sup>-century figure of their interest.

UNIT	SUMMARY
Adolf Hitler	Adolf Hitler was the infamous dictator during wartime Nazi Germany in the 1930s. The unit will discuss his rise to power, his role in starting World War II, and the horrible impact he had on the 20th century.
Henry Ford	Henry Ford was an American industrialist, inventor, and businessman. This unit will analyze his automobile inventions, the effect he had on the world's modern economy, and his political influence.
Mahatma Gandhi	Mahatma Gandhi was a non-violent, revolutionary activist known for fighting against British imperialism in India. This unit will look into how he fought for independence, his strategy of non-violent resistance, and his influence on global activism.
Nelson Mandela	Mandela was a South African activist and politician who served as president in post-apartheid South Africa. This unit will discuss apartheid in South Africa, Mandela's role in transforming the country, his political influence and philosophy, and the legacy of his life in the world.
Stephen Hawking	Stephen Hawking was a physicist and historically recognized as one of the most intelligent individuals of our time. This unit will discuss his life, challenges associated with his physical disability, his impact on the understanding of the universe, and his influence on the modern science.
Susan B. Anthony	Susan B. Anthony was an activist and political figure in the United States who fought tirelessly for the right of women to vote. This unit will analyze the suffragette movement, Anthony's life and causes, and the legacy she charted for American women and women internationally.





# HISTORY: WORLD WAR II | G5-10

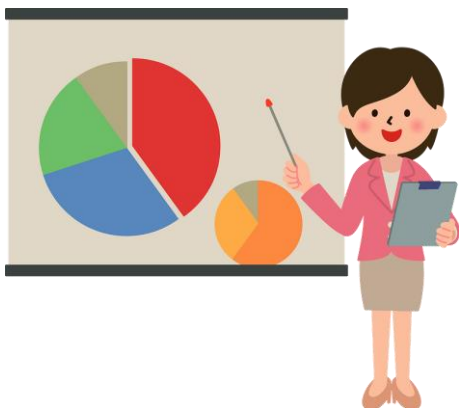
World War II is one of the most staggering events in the history of humanity, involving nearly 100 million soldiers from 30 countries. Students will learn about its causes, battles, countries, and individuals to its horrors and eventual conclusion in 1945. They will review primary sources, learn how to connect historical events in a timeline, and gain insight into a critical time in human history. At the end of the course, students will produce a timeline for a specific country, leader, or political/social/economic aspect of World War II.

UNIT	SUMMARY
Causes of World War II	In these sessions, we'll discuss what led to World War II. This unit will analyze the effects of World War I, the rise of fascism across the globe, and long-lasting country rivalries which resulted in World War II.
Allies & Axis	During this course, we'll discuss each of the big Allied and Axis nations right before the outbreak of the war. In this unit, students will learn what international alliances are and better understand the beginning of World War II.
The European & North African War	This unit will look at the European and North African fronts of the war. We'll analyze the impact of certain battles on the course of the war and discuss how different countries and their peoples were during the European conflict.
The Pacific War	Similarly, as in the last session, we'll fly over to the Pacific to cover the Pacific front of the war. We'll look at the role of certain naval and land battles and also discuss the actions of the Japanese on countries throughout the Pacific during the war.
The Holocaust	In this unit, we'll focus on the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II. We will discuss anti-Semitism in Europe, the experiences of Jews and others in concentration camps, and the legacy of the Holocaust on the world today.
Conclusion & Aftermath	This unit will cover the end of World War II including the nuclear bomb and the beginning of the Cold War. We'll analyze what factors contributed to the end of the war and discuss what came after World War II.

# PUBLIC SPEAKING (ZOOM) | G3-8

In addition to our signature public speaking courses, we are offering a variety of Zoom-only units this summer. From acting to debate, students will be able to develop their presentation skills from home!

GENRE	SUMMARY
Presenting on a Topic	Create a presentation on your topic of interest. Deliver it with confidence as we learn the art of graphic representation and speaking with minimal aids.
Public Forum Debate	Learn the structure of a PF debate. With a partner, design a constructive speak, plan for crossfire, work on impromptu skills with your rebuttal, summary, and final focus.*  *Minimum 2 students required
Impromptu Speaking	Speak off the cuff! Every class will consist of a 30-minute research period before developing a 4 to 7-minute speech, convincing the judge of your point.
Interviewing & Introducing	Sell your skills in one-on-one interviews. Work on concision and focus on what's important in your introduction to the class.
Acting	Ease your nerves and focus on presentation with your part in a play! Learn essential techniques for natural, convincing acting.

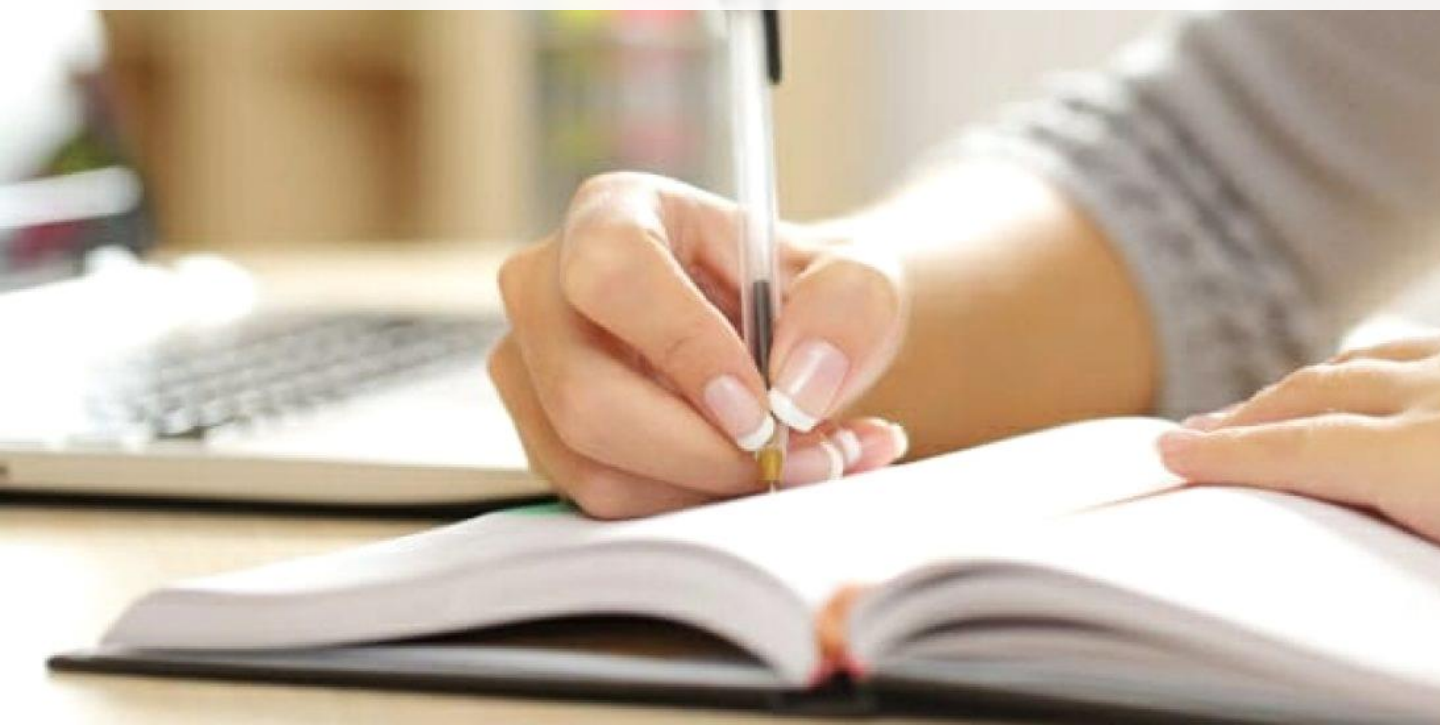




# SIGNATURE COURSES

Our summer academic courses encompass a range of areas including English writing, reading comprehension, public speaking and literary analysis.

All courses can be taken face-to-face or via Zoom.



# PRESENTATION COURSE | K2-G2

Presentation skills – taught at an early age – can build confidence in young learners.

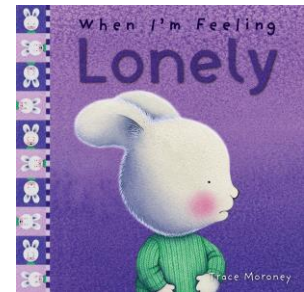
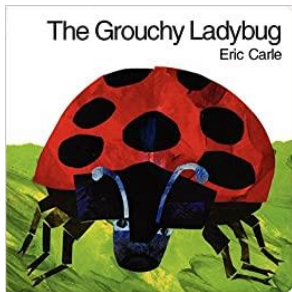
Featuring books of well-known authors, classes under this course involve reading imaginative stories and completing interactive exercises inspired by them.

## K2-K3

In this course, K2-K3 students engage in interactive oral games, developing their vocabulary and logic skills. Activities include self-presentation, show-and-tell, role-play and picture descriptions.

Featured authors and example titles:

- Oliver Jeffers – How to Catch a Star, The Way Back Home
- Eric Carle – The Grouchy Ladybug, The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Trace Moroney – When I'm Feeling Lonely, The Things I Love About Family

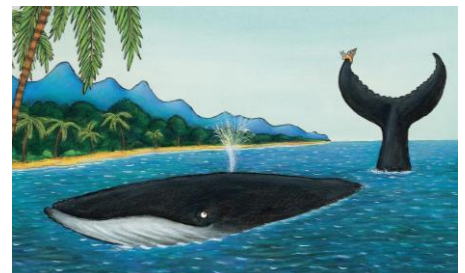


## G1-G2

In this course, G1-G2 students will develop public speaking skills and techniques to deliver organized presentations. Focus areas include how to capture the audience's attention in a speech opening, addressing the audience to keep them interested, and body language 101.

Featured authors and example titles:

- Roald Dahl – George's Marvellous Medicine, The Witches
- Julia Donaldson – The Snail and the Whale, The Gruffalo
- The Berenstains – The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers, Get in a Fight



To prevent overlap, returning students will be assigned brand new authors and titles not yet explored in previous summers with us!

# PUBLIC SPEAKING | G3-8

Mastering the skills of effective communication could be the most important tool to having a successful high school, college and career experience.

Using weekly themes, students will be taken through engaging topics that provide many opportunities for practice and personal guidance.



WEEK	GENRE
3 Jul 5	<p><b>Persuasive Speech – Convince your Audience</b></p> <p>Combine written and spoken techniques including strong arguments, rhetorical questions and effective intonation to sway the minds of your audience into agreeing with your solid stance.</p>
4 Jul 12	<p><b>Impromptu Speech – Give an Impressive Speech on the Spot</b></p> <p>This fun workshop is fast-paced and offers plenty of practice. Learn how to think on your feet, quickly organize information through various prompts and off-the-cuff topics.</p>
5 Jul 19	<p><b>Inspirational Speech – Share your Personal Journey</b></p> <p>Reflect on your achievements and the obstacles faced along the way to inspire your audience. Share your experience with them and show the life lesson learned from it.</p>
6 Jul 26	<p><b>Ted Talk – Deliver an Effective Presentation</b></p> <p>How can you be concise and compelling in your delivery? Learn tricks to keep your audience engaged and give a talk on a subject you are passionate about.</p>
7 Aug 2	<p><b>Appreciation Speech – Give Thanks to an Important Figure</b></p> <p>Who has impacted your life? Touch the hearts of your audience by showing your gratitude and how this person has inspired, supported and/or influenced you.</p>
8 Aug 9	<p><b>Storytelling – Engage the Audience with More Than Words</b></p> <p>Telling a story is not all about the words! Learn and practice how to incorporate tone of voice, body language and actions into stories for captivating delivery.</p>
9 Aug 16	<p><b>Shark Tank – Perfect your Elevator Pitch</b></p> <p>Learn how to summarize key ideas in the time span of an elevator ride! Acting as entrepreneurs, students learn how to be persuasive and present key information in limited time.</p>
10 Aug 23	<p><b>Speech about Yourself – Self-Introduction &amp; Reflections</b></p> <p>Flustered at an interview? Tongue-tied during class presentation? This course can help you speak eloquently about yourself, retell personal stories, present opinions and reflections on the spot.</p>

# WRITING WORKSHOP | G1-5

WEEK	GENRE	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5
<b>1</b> Jun 21	<b>Letter Writing</b>	Travel postcards	An unexpected letter	Send an email to _____	Write to a person in history	Raise an issue with the Chief Executive
<b>2</b> Jun 28	<b>Picture &amp; Writing Prompts</b>	Tell a story from fun & imaginative pictures	Use your imagination to build descriptive and detailed stories	Embellish your story with details	Respond to a mix of creative prompts – music, art piece, a sentence	The realistic encounter based on a news photo
<b>3</b> Jul 5	<b>Mystery &amp; Thriller</b>	Is there a monster under my bed?	How to write spooky stories	Create your own monster	Encounter the supernatural world	End your story with a cliffhanger
<b>4</b> Jul 12	<b>Adventure</b>	An exciting journey with a cartoon character	Exploration in the forest / desert / ocean	Treasure hunting!	The quest of a superhero	Join the adventure of a movie character
<b>5</b> Jul 19	<b>Science Fiction &amp; Fantasy</b>	All about my imaginary friend	The aliens are invading!	Create my own sci-fi world	If I were an alien arriving on Earth for the first time...	You have been taken prisoner to an unknown world
<b>6</b> Jul 26	<b>Greek Gods, Myths &amp; Epic Tales</b>	Create your own mystical character	The Greek god/goddess of _____	Build my own creation myth	Craft your own Greek god/goddess of special talent	Create your own epic tale
<b>7</b> Aug 2	<b>Art of Persuasion</b>	Why I should get an iPad	Three reasons you should buy me a _____	"Best ____ of the Year Award" nomination letter	Persuade your principal to invite _____ to the school	Be convincing with silly persuasive prompts
<b>8</b> Aug 9	<b>Films &amp; Scripts</b>	Diary of a _____ kid	Build Your Own Comic	Create your own superhero & villain	Build a cast for the your movie!	Complex characters that are both evil and good
<b>9</b> Aug 16	<b>A day in the life of...</b>	Your favourite animal	The magic finger	A famous person	A favourite toy	A fictional character
<b>10</b> Aug 23	<b>Poetry</b>	Have fun with rhymes	Riddles	Silly limericks	Funny poems	Descriptive Poems

# WRITING WORKSHOP | G6-10+

WEEK	GENRE	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10+
1 Jun 21	Letter Writing	To someone in your life you wish to thank	A moving letter to a friend or family member	How do you market yourself for a coveted role in school?	An open letter in response to a piece of current events	Persuade a superior to agree to a difficult request
2 Jun 28	Picture & Writing Prompts	Perspectives of different characters at an event, i.e. dinner party, accident, race etc.	Delve into the minds of characters	Writing inspired by a creative source i.e. artwork, music, dance	Convey feelings and reflections from dramatic photos i.e. war zone, famine, refugee camps	The story behind a powerful photo
3 Jul 5	Mystery & Thriller	How to build suspense into your story?	Tales with a twist	Psychological thriller that plays tricks with your mind	Horror stories of extraterrestrial beings	Thrillers with multi-layered & complex characters
4 Jul 12	Adventure	An unexpected encounter	Expedition with a famous explorer	Adventure gone wrong	Life after death	The ordeal of losing everything
5 Jul 19	Science Fiction & Fantasy	Enter the world of Artemis Fowl – the popular teenage criminal mastermind	Design your Hunger Games universe	Utopian & Dystopian Worlds	Back to the future	Alternate societies and governments
6 Jul 26	Greek Gods, Myths & Epic Tales	Tales that define characters and complex relationships	Battle between Gods	Symbolism in Greek myths	Create a moral inspired myth	Myths and its historical impact
7 Aug 2	Art of Persuasion	As the class president, propose a change	Deliver a speech to seek _____	Take a stand in a recent controversial issue	Debate on social issues that affect you	Reflect on philosophical concepts: Agree or disagree?
8 Aug 9	Films & Scripts	My short drama	Introduce a new antagonist	Be a film critic and review a movie	The backstory of your favourite character	Compose a Hollywood script!
9 Aug 16	A day in the life of...	Your alter ego / nemesis	A celebrity or someone famous	One of the world leaders	Your idol	An unfortunate character
10 Aug 23	Poetry	Literary Devices in Poetry	Symbolism & Imagery	Poems on life experiences and reflection	Ballads	Modern poetry and its significance

# VOCAB, READING COMP & GRAMMAR BOOSTER | G1-5

Join our 5-day intensive booster for expanding word banks, reading conscientiously and refining grammar conventions!

Be challenged to apply your knowledge against time restraints in mock tests.

## VOCABULARY

- Lower: 10-15 words per day, practice spelling and sentence building
- Upper: 20-30 words per day and reinforce through application and analogies

## READING COMPREHENSION

- Lower: Fill in the blanks, multiple choice, true or false, and full sentences
- Upper: Read for details and think critically beyond the text in order to predict, infer, relate and draw sensible conclusions

## GRAMMAR

- Lower: Build foundations in punctuation, tenses, syntax, capitalization and subject-verb agreement
- Upper: Refine your skills in mixed tenses, run-on sentences, conditionals, phrasal verbs and figurative language

## MOCK TESTS

- Reinforce concepts and practice performing under time pressure, preparing them for school assessments





# VERBAL & CRITICAL READING BOOSTER | G6-8

Introducing our 5-day intensive booster for higher levels incorporating middle level SSAT and ISEE-style exercises and mock tests.

## SYNONYMS

- Learn unfamiliar words of the same meaning
- Practice recognizing synonyms under time restraints using process of elimination

## ANALOGIES

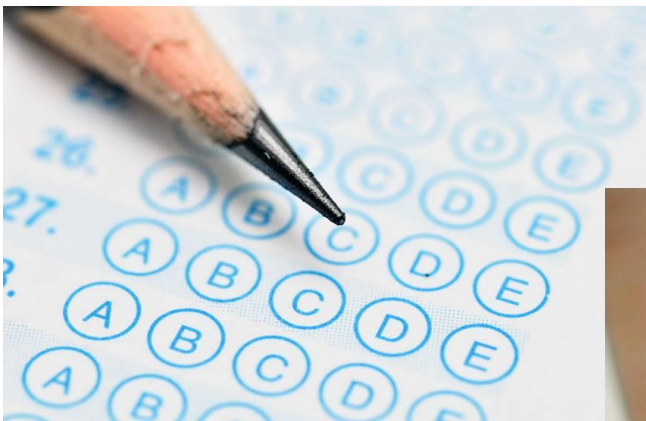
- Use fast thinking and logic to identify the relationships between words
- Apply these skills in test-like situations

## CRITICAL READING

- Practice essential reading techniques for detail and for gist
- Be challenged by timed reading passages and comprehension questions

## MOCK TESTS

- Prepare for standardized testing and school assessments with SSAT and ISEE-style mock tests within time limits



# LITERARY ANALYSIS | G6-11

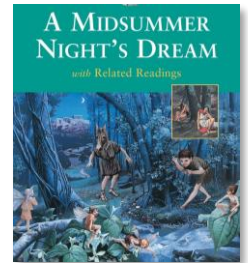
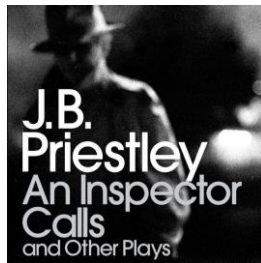
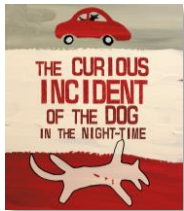
Want to get a head start on books you will read in the next school year?

In our new 10-day course, our teachers will assist students with exploring key themes, analyzing characters and their relationships, and understanding underlying meanings of iconic plots. Each 10-day course focuses on a single piece of literature.

## TITLES INCLUDE:

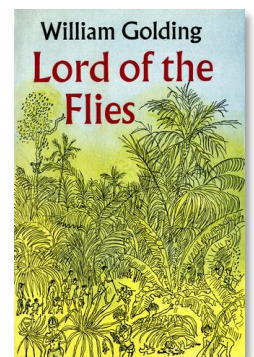
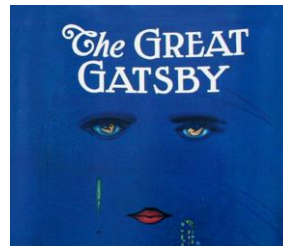
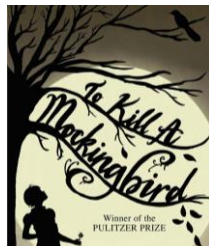
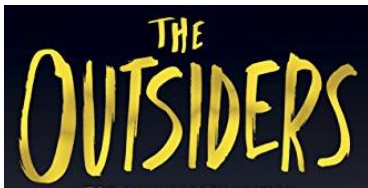
### STAGE PLAYS

- Macbeth; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Romeo and Juliet
- An Inspector Calls; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time



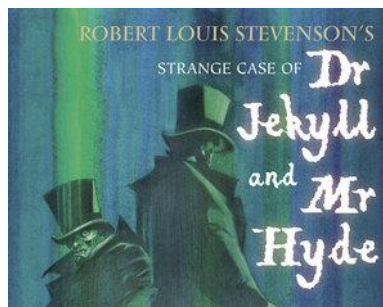
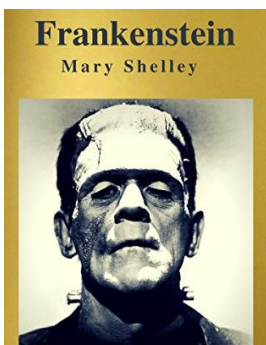
### CLASSIC NOVELS

- Lord of the Flies; Animal Farm; The Giver
- Pride and Prejudice; Great Expectations; The Great Gatsby
- To Kill a Mockingbird; Of Mice and Men; The Outsiders



### GOTHIC LITERATURE

- Frankenstein; Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; Dracula



Texts not listed here may also be requested.

This is a more customized course for max. 3 students in each class.

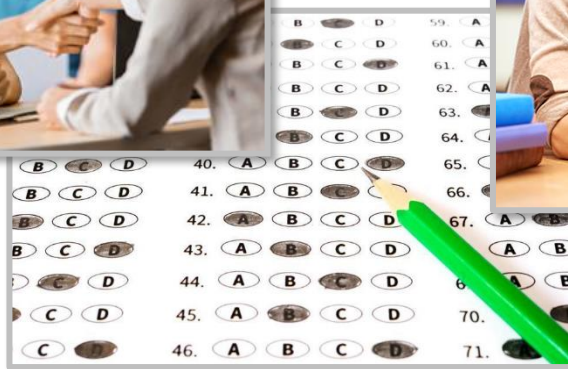
Students who opt to take this course will be required to do assigned reading.

# PRIVATE TUTORING

I successfully got into Choate Rosemary Hall! This would never have happened had I not taken the SSAT private classes offered at The Open Classroom. Prior to taking the class, my vocabulary was sub-par and my initial SSAT score was unsatisfactory. The class educated me on testing strategies, writing techniques and vocabulary. These all came in useful in my final SSAT test. I am grateful to the instructors.

Customized to your needs, we offer classes for all ages:

- Standardized tests including IGCSE, SAT, TOEFL, IELTS, ISEE, SSAT and ACT
- School entrance exams & interviews (primary 1 interview, school transfer, boarding school and college)
- Academic tutoring in English, math, history, personal statement, IB and AP subjects
- Public speaking skills for Speech Festival and school projects



Hebe (Yew Chung and alumni of our 2014 YLOT program) took private interview classes and was successfully accepted into Li Po Chun United World College after three competitive rounds of interview.



**COURSES THAT SUPPORT  
STUDENTS' APPLICATION TO:  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS  
U.S. BOARDING SCHOOLS  
U.S. COLLEGES**



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ENTRANCE PREP

This 2-week course specifically prepares local school students for international schools. It is customized for 1-3 students in each class, targeting their desired schools.



## ENGLISH PREP

Get ready for entrance exams with timed writing practice, reading comprehension training, synonyms and analogies.

Mock tests are included to apply techniques and simulate real entrance exams.

## INTERVIEW PREP

In addition to English prep, this course will get you ready for your international school interviews.

Learn to present yourself confidently and respond with detailed answers, making a positive first impression.

- **Timed Writing:** Practice writing under strict time limits by using varied prompts, effective time management, organization skills and your own imagination
- **Reading Comprehension:** Learn to read critically and quickly at the same time! Practice inferring from different texts and figuring out word definitions based on context
- **Mock Tests:** Put to use the techniques learned and practiced in class to gain an insight into your progress
- **Interview Preparation:** Learn the do's and don'ts of an interview; Recognize how to be presentable and respond beyond simply answering questions; Seize the opportunity to give your best first impression!

# U.S. BOARDING SCHOOL ESSAY WRITING & INTERVIEW TRAINING



## ESSAY WRITING

- Essay writing is possibly the most daunting and time-consuming part of the application process. Don't wait till the last minute. Start early as good writing requires practice and continual refinement.
- Get a head start with this course by learning how to craft compelling answers and memorable essays. Teacher will share well-written application essays accepted to top-tier boarding schools and focus on three types of writing:

### PART I

**Short answers** – Concise and effective answers that show off your best self

**Leadership/Community** – Learn how to tackle the inevitable topic of every application. Write with purpose and enhance your application by adding meaning and personal values to your profile.

- Produce outputs based on selective and popular application questions from Hotchkiss, Choate, Andover and schools of your choice
- Receive personalised feedback with proofreading and critique on each draft

### PART II

**Personal essay** – Let your character shine through! Be honest, be reflective, and use this opportunity to demonstrate your integrity, insight and maturity.

## INTERVIEW TRAINING

- What are some of the commonly asked questions? What do interviewers look for? Review tips and practice skills that will better prepare you for interviews
- Be challenged to think on your feet, learn to organize ideas in order to come up with coherent and thoughtful answers
- Mock interviews conducted by experienced interviewer, Ms. Agnes Kong

\* As a continuation to this course, we also offer personalized school admissions consulting services.

# U.S. COLLEGE APPLICATION PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP



College admissions are more competitive than ever. Use your application essay, which carries significant weight, as an opportunity to stand out!

Whether you are in the brainstorming stage or drafting process, this course will teach you how to produce memorable and powerful essays that distinguish you from the crowd.

- Dissect accepted Ivy League long and short essays, review fundamentals of personal statement writing and learn to express traits that will make you an attractive candidate
- Learn how to select a topic, develop ideas, edit for content and style and avoid common pitfalls that weaken your chances of admission
- One-on-one time with expert writers to proofread, critique and revise drafts
- Leave the program with a strong foundational personal statement essay or two short essays
- As a continuation to this course, we also offer personalized school admissions consulting service

“ Prior to my time with Agnes and her team, I was completely lost. While I had my topic for my personal statement in mind, my essay lacked depth and was simply all over the place.

Agnes helped me with my essay on content revisions and then paired me with a mentor who attends Columbia University, the school I plan to apply Early Decision for...They were there every step of the way and helped me reconfigure my thoughts in a way that would convey them more concisely. By the end of our fourth session my personal statement was complete. My personal statement was truly the one piece of my application that tied my entire story and profile together. Without this strong part of my application I believe that I would not have been admitted to the school of my dreams.

~ Grade 12 student (attending Columbia)



# PRIVATE CONSULTING SERVICE & TEST PREP with Founder

We offer bespoke and comprehensive scope of advisory service for US boarding school and college placement. Each student will work directly with our founder, Agnes, for both private test prep classes (SSAT/ISEE/ACT/SAT), application essays and interview training. Limited spaces offered during the year.



Agnes has helped hundreds of students prepare for standardized tests, personal statements and school interviews. Her students are now studying in top boarding schools and universities including the Ivy Leagues. She continues to be a close mentor to a lot of her students, advising them on career opportunities beyond college. She gives regular talks in schools and is a part time lecturer at the Hong Kong Baptist University.

- Yale Undergrad (summa cum laude & phi beta kappa); Harvard Business School; PGDE from HKU
- Previously worked for Goldman Sachs, IFC World Bank, JPMorgan and Carlyle Group

“ Agnes has a legendary reputation for preparing students for boarding school. This reputation is well-deserved and I could not be happier with what she has provided my daughter in terms of tutoring, test preparation and mentoring. She came highly recommended and from day one I knew my daughter was in good hands. Agnes delivered big time: awesome SSAT test scores, improved grades and ultimately acceptances by top US schools. As pleased as I am with the results, Agnes’s methodology and process are the true benefits of working with her. My daughter’s approach to test taking and critical thinking improved. Her discipline and stamina increased and her overall study habits sharpened when I wasn’t sure they could be. Also, a mediocre math student was elevated to one who will take honors next year. Most importantly, Agnes’s own educational and professional backgrounds make her an invaluable mentor. Agnes undoubtedly expects her students to work very hard but she instils the confidence that success will come as a result. My daughter adores Agnes and my son is now working with her. I highly recommend her. ~ Parent of HKIS student, Grade 8 (attending Deerfield)

“ Agnes worked with my daughter throughout the boarding school application process, from SSAT preparation and then providing guidance on the application process and essays. Agnes’ depth of experience combined with her intellect and natural gifts as a teacher are a powerful combination. She became a trusted coach, collaborator and advisor throughout the process. Tests results were great, essays wonderful and admission gained to my daughter’s first choice school. Thank you, Agnes! ~ Parent of ISF student, Grade 8 (attending Taft)



# PRIVATE CONSULTING SERVICE & TEST PREP with Founder

“ Agnes is an incredibly disciplined teacher who motivates a child to push him/herself to get to the next level. She is passionate about helping her students and tailors her lesson according to their needs. She helped raise our child’s scores dramatically and gain entrance to a top level U.S. boarding school - our child’s first choice! Agnes’s tuition, knowledge of the exam and insight into the boarding school application process helped us tremendously. If your child is willing to work, Agnes is the one who can help!

~ Parent of HKIS student, Grade 8 (attending Cate)

“ In this tutoring industry, there are so many different teachers that excel in teaching SSAT but to find one suited for my daughter’s needs was very difficult until I found Agnes. Agnes was able to inspire my kid to find her drive in learning both for standardized tests and at school. Furthermore, this has also led to an increase in her confidence and pushed her to perform better. Through hours of tutoring, it is evident that her hard work has paid off with her huge increase in scores in all sections of the test. Agnes is a teacher who can not only teach top students, she’s able to open up students who may feel discouraged by grades and unmotivated and inspire them to strive for success. Although my daughter was admitted to her dream boarding school, she has continued with Agnes’ classes to continue improving her foundation in English and math to prepare her for high school.

~ Parent of ISF student, Grade 8 (attending Taft in the fall)

“ I highly recommend Agnes to be the mentor for any student considering to apply for boarding school in the US. My son, and myself, benefited greatly from her in-depth knowledge of the admission requirements of the US schools. She has a keen sense in assessing a child’s strength and weakness relative to the targeted schools, and a well thought out strategy in preparing the overall portfolio for the student. Her help in preparing my son on his interviews, essays, and SSAT test are indispensable for my son to be accepted by his first choice school. Moreover, I believe that her work has helped prepare my son for the challenges he will face at the boarding school and even beyond.

~ Parent of HKIS student, Grade 8 (attending Choate)

“ Working with Agnes was very efficient and concise. We started off making a list of potential schools, and she provided the help I needed (currents students in her network) to decide where I wanted to apply for early decision. I think I benefitted most from her help when we began crafting my personal statement. She helped me decide on a topic that would represent who I am but also helped me brainstorm ideas on how best to deliver my writing. We exchanged several drafts, during which I was able to skype with her and another mentor and they provided me with really helpful feedback. She is always very responsive and gives criticism that is clear and constructive. With her help, I have received admittance from Brown, Columbia, UPenn, Berkeley, NYU, and UNC.

~ Groton student, Grade 12

# PRIVATE CONSULTING SERVICE & TEST PREP with Founder

“ Agnes expertly guided my eldest daughter through the extremely difficult U.S. university application process. Because of Agnes’ expert advice, my daughter was accepted to 8 out of the 10 schools she applied to and offered scholarships from 7 of these schools. We could not be happier with the results that Agnes helped my daughter achieve. Most importantly, Agnes pushes the students to present the best of themselves while still staying true to who they are. The difference between Agnes and the other consultants in Hong Kong is the one on one attention she gives to each of her clients. With Agnes’ guidance, my daughter wrote a beautiful and powerful personal essay which I think helped her get into some of the tougher schools.

I highly recommend her as a consultant.

~ Parent of French International School student, Year 13 (accepted to Harvard)

“ I have been tutoring with Agnes for over 5 years for the SSAT and SAT. Ever since my first lesson I knew that Agnes was an amazing, kind tutor and mentor. I continued to study with Agnes my junior and senior year for the SAT. Over the years Agnes was not only a tutor but a mentor. She helped me stay motivated even when I was frustrated and wasn't seeing progress. She pushed me to keep trying hard and with Agnes my hard work paid off. Agnes is the absolute best and I am forever grateful for her guidance and support.

~ Cate student (accepted into Yale Early Action)

“ Working with Agnes was very efficient and concise. We started off making a list of potential schools, and she provided the help I needed (currents students in her network) to decide where I wanted to apply for early decision. I think I benefitted most from her help when we began crafting my common app personal statement. She helped me decide on a topic that would represent who I am but also helped me brainstorm ideas on how best to deliver my writing. We exchanged several drafts, during which I was able to skype with her and Kerri (Yale English major) and they provided me with really helpful feedback. She is always very responsive and gives criticism that is clear and constructive.

~ Groton student, Grade 12 (accepted into Brown, Columbia, Upenn)

“ It was six days before the Early Decision deadline. Desperate for some help on my college application essays, I approached Agnes for her help and sent in both my Common App and University supplement. Within five hours, she gave me helpful revision comments and paired me with a mentor Kerri, an English major from Yale, who further sent me extremely detailed feedback on my essays. From content to stylistic techniques, their suggestions transformed my originally sloppy essays to professional pieces of work and elevated them to a level I definitely couldn't have reached myself. Those essays ended up getting me into the University of Chicago, my dream school, and it's all thanks to the immense help I received from Agnes and her team of mentors.

~ CIS student, Year 13 (accepted to Chicago early decision)