

YWA 2025-26 Young Writers Adventure

(Regular or Advanced Track)

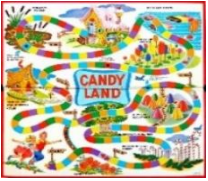
amy.ruff@outlook.com

Amy Ruff's Home School Tutorials

(919)219-4338

YWA Course Description: If I could “draw” a picture of my Young Writers Adventure experience, it would look like the game Candy Land.

- **Punctuation peppermints** would delight our intellectual palates.
 - **Grammar gumdrops** would offer sweet treats at every turn.
 - **Editing-skill lollipops** would entice us to peek under every rock & behind every shrub for hidden errors.
 - **Vocab & spelling (😊😊ps) development** would **taste playfully delicious**—not bitterly intimidating—to our **brain's tastebuds**.
 - Each student would eagerly anticipate his or her **writing HW**: hatching **batches of cream-filled stories**, spinning **tales of twisted taffy**, & creating **luscious licorice-laced narratives**.
- And, best of all, **everyone would be a winner!**



Be Proud & Share Aloud: Nearly every week, students will **share aloud bits & pieces** of their **writing**:

- **Overcoming apprehension** about reading aloud is a **first big step**.
- **Surging past** personal **hang-ups** about **sharing one's own written creations** is a **second big step**.
- **Itsy by bitsy**, we will feel **safe & bonded** with each other while **building confidence** as **young writers**.

Bio: Amy Ruff lives next to her **beloved alma mater, Duke University**, & enjoys teaching, tutoring, & test prepping students **in person** or **online** in her areas of specialty: SAT, ACT, & APs (AP Eng Lang & Lit; APUSH; AP Psych); **literary analysis; rhetoric; Spanish; psychology; philosophy & religion; executive function & study skills**.

Having completed her **BA at Duke University** with double majors in **English & religion**, Amy also earned a **Certificate in Duke's** rigorous interdisciplinary **Women's Studies Program**. While an undergraduate & after graduation, Amy worked in **editing for the Duke University Press** & continues to **freelance edit**.

Intuitive and seasoned at identifying & developing the potential in her students, Amy's **energetic & engaging style** enables students to **grow in their knowledge of subject matter** while also **honing their critical-thinking skills & elevating their character**. Having **homeschooled her own children** through high school, Amy continues to **support the homeschooling community by offering group-class tutorials**.

Counseling students to **align self-understanding with their envisioned future**, Amy has aided many to **make wise choices** for their **post-high-school paths**. She has assisted students to **succeed on test prep & applications for acceptance** into a range of schools. From **Harvard, Duke, & Stanford** to **UNC & NCSU** to **community colleges across NC**, Amy's students **thrive in diverse academic, artistic, athletic, trade, & professional pursuits**.

Of **Argentine-Italian descent** & hailing from **Italian roots in Pittsburgh, PA**, Amy attended boarding prep school on a **full scholarship & received a college scholarship from the Spanish National Honor Society**. Amy continued her **Spanish studies at Duke** & served on **short-term missions as a Spanish interpreter**. From the **rudiments of grammar & vocabulary** to encounters with **cooking & dancing**, Sra. Amy's students **learn to love Latina language & culture!**

Always eager to serve the local & global community, Amy's volunteering includes support of **several non-profits**, graduation from/involvement with **REI (Racial Equity Institute) Phase I Training**, & promotion of **The Honor Foundation** (helping special-ops retirees, like Amy's deceased big brother who was a decorated Navy SEAL).

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YWA Materials: Please purchase the following.

1. A **THREE-RING BINDER** serves as the **student's organization station**—ideal for **taking notes** (on loose-leaf pages), **filing** emailed **handouts**, **storing HW**, etc.
2. In a **personalized, customized, just-as-you-like-it JOURNAL**, each student will write **JE = Journal Entry HW = homework** to submit to Mrs. Amy for grading.
3. **NOTECARDS** serve as an aid to:
 - **Memorize terms** (like POS = parts of speech; labels used for DS = diagramming sentences; etc.)
 - **Review spelling words**

Academic Vision:

1. **Attend & participate**—irresistibly easy 😊—during class!
2. Take **class notes**.
3. **Complete HW = homework**.
4. Take **in-class tests**.
5. Choose to do optional **level-up challenges**:
 - a. Follow **challenge-level directions** when given by Mrs. Amy **on tests**.
 - b. Complete **challenge-level tasks for HW** by:
 - Generating more **complex versions of certain writing-prompt HW** (such as **multiple-paragraph narratives**, not just single-paragraph stories)
 - Generating **extensions of previous writing HW** as **successive chapters** or **sequels**

Class Time/Location/Dates:

1. YWA Dates & In-person Location:

- At **Grace Church**: 200 Sage Rd, Chapel Hill, across from Lowe's near 15-501/I-40
- In **room #118**: park on the **smaller-lot side of Grace** to enter **double-exterior doors & find #118 on the right**
- On **Tues 245-330 PM 9/9-12/2/25 & 1/13-4/7/26** w/**10/14/25 fall, 11/25/25 T-giving, & 3/10/26 spring breaks**

2. Virtual YWA:

- COVID launched me into **virtual teaching**—which I make very **colorful** (with my Surface Pro Pen) & **engaging** (with my go-go gramma personality).
- If **you need to attend class virtually** b/c of sickness (parent or student), travel, etc., then **I will launch Zoom** & allow my camera to capture as much of our lively, in-motion, not-seat-bound class as possible.
- On my end, if **I have to teach virtually** due to some **unexpected reason** (such as being sick/injured but feeling well enough to teach), **I will conduct class via Zoom**, notifying parents by email & text of a shift to virtual YWA.
- If **I am sick & unable to teach**, I will use the **following dates as our buffer to add classes** at the end of the semester: 12/9/25, 12/16/25 & 4/14/25, 4/21/25.

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Registration & Tuition:

1. The non-refundable **registration/tuition** should be paid via one of the following methods.

- **Venmo** www.venmo.com/Amy-Ruff-8 • **Zelle** under 919-219-4338 • **Check** 1101 Anderson St Durham 27705

2. The **registration** is due in July, & **tuition** is due as $\frac{1}{2}$ in **August** & $\frac{1}{2}$ in **January**: \$100 reg/\$800 tuition

Names: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Emails: _____

Phones: Student's _____ Parents' _____

British Lit 945-11 AM <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/750 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/800 <input type="checkbox"/> AP \$125/850		
Spanish I Registration/Tuition 11 AM-12 PM Tues at Grace Church <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/750 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/800	Spanish II Registration/Tuition 845-945 AM Tues at Grace Church <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/750 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/800	Spanish III Registration/Tuition TBD in Amy's Home or via Zoom <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/750 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/800
Middle School Composition 12-1 PM Tues at Grace Church <input type="checkbox"/> One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/850		
Introduction to Literature 1-2 PM Tues at Grace Church <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/750 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/800		
YSA Young Spanish Adventure on Tues at Grace Church 2-245 PM <input type="checkbox"/> One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/800		
YWA Young Writers Adventure on Tues at Grace Church 245-330 PM <input type="checkbox"/> One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/800		
<u>Times for Amy's Tuesday 2025-26 Classes – Hybrid offerings of each class are conducted in person & via Zoom (per student preference):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues/845-945 AM Spanish II (regular & honors tracks) at Grace • Tues/945-11 AM British Lit (regular, honors, & AP tracks) at Grace • Tues/11 AM-12 PM Spanish I (regular & honors tracks) at Grace • Tues/12-1 PM Middle School Composition (one track) at Grace • Tues/1-2 PM Intro Lit with Am Lit twist (regular & honors) at Grace • Tues/2-245 PM YSA Young Spanish Adventure (ages 7-11) at Grace • Tues/245-330 PM YWA Young Writers Adventure (ages 7-11) at Grace • TBD Spanish III (regular & honors tracks) 		<u>Middle/High School 2025-26 Class Calendar:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/26/25 First Fall Tues 2025 Class • 10/14/25 NO Class for Fall Break • 11/25/25 NO Class for Thanksgiving Break • 12/16/25 Last 2025 Tues Class • 1/6/26 First 2026 Tues Class • 3/10/26 NO Class for Spring Break • 5/12/26 Last 2026 Tues Class
<u>YWA/YSA 2025-26 Class Calendar:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9/9/25 First Fall Class • 10/14/25 NO Class Fall Break • 11/25/25 NO Class Thanksgiving • 12/2/25 Last Class • 1/13/26 First 2026 Class • 3/10/26 NO Class for Spring Break • 4/7/26 Last 2026 Tues Class 		