

YWA 2026-27 Young Writers Adventure

(Regular or Advanced Track)

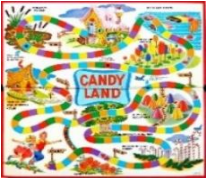
amy.ruff@outlook.com

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 with her husband Brian next to her beloved alma mater, Duke University. When not spending time with her precious grandchildren, Amy enjoys teaching, tutoring, & test prepping students in person as well as online in her areas of specialty: SAT, ACT, & APs (AP Eng Lang & Lit, AP Hx, AP Psych); literary analysis; research & composition; 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 her community, Amy is a supporter of The Honor Foundation (helping special-ops retirees, like Amy's deceased big brother who was a decorated Navy SEAL), board VP for Feather in a Cap drama troupe, volunteer with local nonprofits, & graduate of REI (Racial Equity Institute) training.

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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 3-345 PM 9/8-12/1/26 & 1/12-4/6/27** w/**10/13/26 fall, 11/24/26 T-giving, & 3/9/27 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 grammar 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 but feeling well enough to teach), **I will conduct class via Zoom**, notifying parents by email & text of a shift to virtual YSA.
- 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: 12/8/26, 12/15/26 & 4/13/27, 4/20/27.

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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/\$900 tuition

Names: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Emails: _____

Phones: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Introduction to Psychology 845-10 AM ☐ Honors Track \$100/900 ☐ AP \$150/1000		
American Lit 10-1115 AM ☐ Regular Track \$75/850 ☐ Honors Track \$100/900 ☐ AP \$150/1000		
Spanish I Registration/Tuition 1-2 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ Regular Track \$75/800 ☐ Honors Track \$100/900	Spanish II Registration/Tuition 1115 AM-1210 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ Regular Track \$75/850 ☐ Honors Track \$100/950	Spanish III Registration/Tuition Day/Time TBD ☐ Regular Track \$75/900 ☐ Honors Track \$100/1000
Middle School Composition 1210-1 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/1000		
Introduction to Literature 2-3 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ Regular Track \$75/850 ☐ Honors Track \$100/900		
YWA Young Writers Adventure on Tues at Grace Church 3-345 PM ☐ One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/900		
YSA Young Spanish Adventure on Tues at Grace Church 345-430 PM ☐ One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/800		
<u>Times for Amy's 2026-27 Classes – Hybrid classes are conducted in person & via Zoom (per student preference) *at Grace Church (unless specified otherwise):</u> • *Tues/845-10 AM Intro Psych (regular & honors tracks; adv 8th-12th grades) • *Tues/10-1115 AM American Lit (regular, honors, AP tracks; 8th-12th grades) • *Tues/1115 AM-1210 PM Spanish II (regular & honors tracks; 7th-12th grades) • *Tues/1210-1 PM Middle School Composition (one track; 6th-10th grades) • *Tues/1-2 PM Spanish I (regular & honors tracks; 6th-11th grades) • *Tues/2-3 PM Intro Lit (regular & honors; 6th-10th grades) • *Tues/3-345 PM YWA Young Writers Adventure (ages 7-10) • *Tues/345-430 PM YSA Young Spanish Adventure (ages 7-10) • TBD time/place Spanish III (regular & honors tracks; 8th-11th grades)		<u>Class Calendar 2026-27 Middle/High School:</u> • 8/25/26 First Fall Tues 2026 Class • 10/13/26 NO Class for Fall Break • 11/24/26 NO Class for Thanksgiving Break • 12/15/26 Last 2026 Tues Class • 1/5/27 First 2027 Tues Class • 3/9/27 NO Class for Spring Break • 5/11/27 Last Class (Comp ends 4/27/27)
<u>YWA/YSA 2026-27 Class Calendar:</u> • 9/8/26 First Fall Class • 10/13/26 NO Class Fall Break • 11/24/26 NO Class Thanksgiving • 12/1/26 Last Class • 1/12/27 First Class • 3/9/27 NO Class for Spring Break • 4/6/27 Last Class		