

Dr. Gavin Wittje
English Fundamentals (grades 6-8), Fall Semester

Saturdays, 5pm-7pm from 9/5-12/18/2026, or
Mondays, 6:30pm-8:30pm from 9/7-12/21/2026
(No classes on the Thanksgiving weekend: 11/27 – 11/31)

I. Purpose of the program

I'm very fond of my students and want to do whatever I can to improve their chances at a bright and happy future. I wish to give them not only a step up in their preparation for high school and standardized testing but also a positive outlook on English in general so that they can excel in their regular classes and in life.

II. Major Contents of the program

The course will enhance students' grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing through targeted drills and discussion. I make every effort to ensure that the readings challenge them without being too difficult and class itself is enjoyable and productive. This semester's theme is science fiction.

III. Textbooks and Study Materials

The class requires a number of books and other materials. Many of the materials will be included in the study guide, but you still need to purchase the books from Amazon.

- 1) English Fundamentals Study Guide (Fall 2026) (pdf)
- 2) Flash Review English Grammar (buy used online or free pdf)
- 3) Wordly Wise 10 (ISBN: 978-0838876107)
- 4) 4) Classic literature short stories, novellas, and books:
 - ☐ "The Minority Report" by Philip K. Dick (in the Study Guide)
 - ☐ "We Can Remember it for You Wholesale" by Philip K. Dick (in the Study Guide)
 - ☐ Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (ISBN: 978-1250773029)
 - ☐ Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes (ISBN: 9780156030083)
 - ☐ The Man Who Mistook His Wife's Head for His Hat by Oliver Sacks (ISBN: 9781509881918)
- 5) Various Instructor Handouts

IV. Schedule of the Intermediate English Program (15 weeks)

Class #	Dates	Reading/Literature/Poems	Writing	Wordly Wise 10	Grammar
1	9/5 or 9/7	Life and Works of Kingsley Amis	Adventure stories	Lessons 1-2	Section 1-3

		Kingsley Amis' Poem "Science Fiction" Life and Works of Philip K. Dick "The Minority Report" by Philip K. Dick			
2	9/12 or 9/14	Life and Works of Ezra Pound Ezra Pound's Canto 81 "libretto" "The Minority Report" by Philip K. Dick	Essay template	Lessons 3	Section 4-5
3	9/19 or 9/21	Life and Works of Wallace Stevens Wallace Stevens's Poem "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" "We Can Remember it for You Wholesale" by Philip K. Dick	First essay due	Review for Lessons 4	Section 6-7
4	9/26 or 9/28	Life and Works of Matthew Arnold Matthew Arnold's Poem "Dover Beach" Life and Works of Orson Scott Card Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card	Essay review	Lessons 5	Section 8-9
5	10/3 or 10/5	Life and Works of William Carlos Williams William Carlos Williams's Poem "Young Housewife" Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card	War in fiction	Lessons 6	Section 10-11
6	10/10 or 10/12	Life and Works of Hart Crane Hart Crane's Poem "Chaplinesque" Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card	Second essay due	Review for Lessons 7	Section 12-13
7	10/17 or 10/19	Life and Works of Theodore Roethke Theodore Roethke's Poem "I Knew a Woman" Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card	Playwriting	Lessons 8	Section 14
8	10/24 or 10/26	Life and Works of William Blake William Blake's Poem "The Chimney Sweeper" Life and Works of Daniel Keyes Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes	Science and Math in fiction	Lessons 9	Section 15
9	10/31 or 11/2	Life and Works of Elizabeth Bishop Elizabeth Bishop's Poem "Armadillo" Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes	Third essay due	Review for Lessons 10	Section 16

10	11/7 or 11/09	Life and Works of William Stafford William Stafford's Poem "Traveling Through the Dark" Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes	Literary allusions	Lessons 11	Section 17
11	11/14 or 11/16	Life and Works of John Berryman John Berryman's Poem "Professor's Song" Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes	Creative writing	Lessons 12	Section 18-19
12	11/21 or 11/23	Life and Works of Robert Browning Robert Browning's Poem "Meeting at Night" The Man Who Mistook His Wife for A Hat by Oliver Sacks	Fourth essay due	Review for Lessons 13	Section 20
13	12/5 or 12/7	Life and Works of Robert Lowell Robert Lowell's Poem "Dolphin" The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat	Debate prep	Lessons 14	Section 21-22
14	12/12 or 12/14	Life and Works of William Butler Yeats William Butler Yeats's Poem "Wild Swans at Coole" The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat	Fifth essay due	Lessons 15	Section 23
15	12/19 or 12/21	Life and Works of Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein's "Susie Asado" The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat	Debate	Review	Section 24