Homeschool bundle includes:
• Student Edition
• Student Workbook
• Teacher’s Resource Library on CD-ROM
Because You Know What Matters Most

Thank you for choosing Pearson to help you on your homeschool journey. Making the right decision about homeschooling can set your child on an exciting path to a lifetime of learning and success. Pearson makes it easy for you to inspire a joy of learning with flexible programs to fit your child’s unique learning style. This built-in flexibility lets you set the schedule and the pace that works for you and your child. As you read through this guide and review the included materials, you’ll experience how easy it is to personalize the curriculum to match your child’s learning style and ensure success with our engaging programs.

Plus, you can rest assured that all of the fundamentals for success are included. The homeschool curriculum you have chosen has been thoughtfully developed and tested by seasoned professionals, to make sure your child receives the finest education.

Welcome to Pearson Homeschool!
Preparation

It is always an exciting time when you get to open the box with your new curriculum. All of the books and materials are colorful, the pages are crisp and they are filled with the possibilities of the coming year. The anticipation of using the books and teaching your child is new and fresh. Like the air after a spring shower, it is invigorating. You can’t wait until you can get started.

Open the bundle of materials, flip through the pages of each book, take in how they look and feel. Get familiar with all of the components. Let your child share in the excitement and catch the enthusiasm you have for starting this new adventure. These will be your companions over the course of the next year.

Once you get familiar with the material, you may experience the overwhelming feeling that is common to homeschool parents: “How will I ever cover all of this material?” You may be flooded with insecurities that you don’t know or remember the subject or content. All of these are normal thoughts and experiences for anyone who has homeschooled.

Remember the value of the journey you are on. Focus on the reasons you chose to homeschool in the first place, the daily interaction with your child, and teaching them how to learn. As the tutor, you as the parent don’t have to know all of the material. It’s fine to learn it with your child as you go through the material together. You are the guide for your child as you journey with them through the learning process.

Overview

The AGS Literature homeschool bundle includes the following components:

- Student Edition
- Student Workbook
- Teacher’s Resource Library on CD-ROM

The AGS Literature Series presents an anthology of literature collections – material written by different authors. It can be poems, plays, short series, essays, parts of novels, folktales, legends, or myths. The AGS anthologies are organized around selections from certain countries and themes. This series covers Exploring Literature, American Literature, British Literature, and World Literature.
Exploring Literature will help your child examine, interact with, and appreciate classic and contemporary works of original, unadapted literature. Students are drawn into this study by looking at the defining characteristics of these literacy genres: fables, myths, tall tales and legends, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. The literature selected for each genre was chosen from many cultural backgrounds, and includes traditional works, as well as those from contemporary authors.

American Literature reflects the hope that all learners will understand and appreciate literature that has impacted, and continues to affect, the development of our nation. The chronological approach of American Literature encourages the connection between American Literature and events in American history.

British Literature focuses on literature from the region from Anglo-Saxon times to the present. Presented in a chronological order, the anthology selections help make the connection between British Literature and British history.

World Literature contains literature from around the world to provide an appreciation for literature that has influenced the people of our world. This anthology is organized chronologically to highlight historic events that have shaped the world, and influenced the writing of the times.

Using the Materials

Pearson curriculum materials are thoughtfully planned to present the subject in a way that is engaging. Each lesson builds upon itself, but provides flexibility so you can make it your own.

Using the Student Edition Textbook

Each Student Edition Textbook begins with an introduction on how to use an anthology text – how the material will be presented, and how to approach each selection. Next, the genre definitions that will appear in this text are presented to provide you and your child with information prior to beginning the course.

The How To Read This Book section is the source for understanding the methodology of instruction. Each Student Edition Textbook is divided into units with each unit presented in the following format:

• Before Beginning a Unit – describes ideas your child should consider prior to beginning this unit.
• Before Reading a Selection – describes the background and objectives for the reading selection.
• As You Read a Selection – a guide to assist your child as they master the skills and concepts of the unit. Notes are presented on the side margins to help the reader understand, and think about, the main ideas of the passage.
• After Reading a Selection – review questions and activities to develop grammar, writing, speaking and additional skills.
Using the Teacher's Resource Library on CD-ROM

The Teacher's Resource Library includes a variety of activities, resources and self-guided materials to help you and your child through this course. Insert the disc into your computer and follow the CD-ROM liner notes to install. Click on the TOC PDF file to begin.

The main menu will feature:
- Activities, Tests, and Resources – a variety of elements to support the Student Edition Textbook
- Activities by Unit and Selection – activities organized by Unit
- Answers for Activities and Tests – the answer key to all of the student exercises
- Instructions – how to use the Teacher's Resource Library CD-ROM

To navigate the software, mouse over and click on your selections. As you move through the material, a Main Menu section will appear on each page to enable you to return to the introduction screen. Additionally, you will be able to navigate forward or backward by clicking the Next and Back buttons, respectively. Finally, to print the resources, click on the item to bring up the activity, test, or other resource, and then click in the red box at the top of the screen. Be sure to specify the pages you want to print or all pages will be printed by default.

Using the Student Workbook

Each Student Workbook contains exercises that correspond with the literature selections within each unit from the Student Edition Textbook. These exercises are designed to develop and reinforce the skills your child is learning. Have your child follow along in the workbook and complete the exercise after reading the literature selection. At the end of each unit is a review section to assess your child’s comprehension of the material.

Lesson Plans

Lesson plans are important to a successful homeschool environment. They help keep you on track, progress through the material and provide a steady structure for teaching your child. It is important to plan out your lessons but remember - lesson plans are a guide. You should leave room to adapt to your child and adjust the plan to ensure he or she understands the material. The objective is to have a tool you can use to watch your child progress and master the material you present over the school year.
Before you begin your lesson plan, review the materials to see how they are structured. Use this as a guide to help you evaluate and formulate your lesson plan for the coming year. Additionally, there are a number of items to consider when preparing your plan. How many days per week will you have school? Do you plan to have extended breaks for the holidays or vacations? The number of children you have and their ages will affect how and what you can do as well.

Lesson plans in general should have certain vital components. A suggested list would include some or all of the following:

- the portion of text covered during the lesson
- key concepts
- activities to do
- assignments given
- main ideas of the lesson
- questions to ask
- potential field trip ideas
- materials and resources needed

The Teacher’s Resource Library includes a number of resources. Prior to beginning each unit, review the available resources and print out those that you will use in the lessons. These resources include: Self-Study Guides, Building Language Arts Skills, Vocabulary Activities, outlines and glossaries, writing activities, exercises, and quizzes:

1. Click on the Activities by unit and selection
2. Select the current unit to view the materials
3. Select any item from the series of activities to prepare your child for the unit
4. Click the Next navigation button to continue through the reading passages
5. Click on any item to view and print the material

The Self-Study Guides are located at the beginning of each unit (after the Introduction section within the Activities by Unit and Selection area). Alternatively, these can be accessed by:

1. Clicking on Activities, Tests, and Resources section
2. Clicking on the Self-Study Guides
3. Clicking on the corresponding Self-Study Guide selection (click on the Next navigation button to view the other pages for more study guide selections)

The Self-Study Guides outline the objectives of each reading selection and identify the corresponding pages within the Student Edition Textbook. Your child should work through the Building Language Arts Skills and Vocabulary Activities while reading through the literature passage, then complete the Selection Outline. At the conclusion of each lesson, you may choose additional activities for your child. After they have completed the lesson and activities, administer the selection quiz to assess their understanding of the material.

There are two Unit Mastery Tests that you can use to measure your child’s comprehension of all the skills taught throughout the unit. Have your child work through the first test, then check their answers to identify any areas for further help. If necessary, have your child complete the second test. Refer to the Answers for Activities and Tests section from the main menu for the answers to all tests and activities.

Familiarize yourself with any legal requirements you may have in your area or state, and plan your lessons accordingly. The Pearson Homeschool website (PearsonHomeschool.com) has links to each state Department of Education so that you may review the laws and how to comply with them.
Adapt the Curriculum to Fit your Situation

One of the great benefits of homeschooling is that the instruction is personal. Everything you teach will be personalized to fit your child. The AGS Literature program is easy to pace and offers enrichment activities and additional support when necessary.

**Pacing**
Each student book is divided into 6-8 units which will cover between 140-170 teaching days with one literature selection per lesson depending on the pace of your child. As you work through the curriculum, adjust your pace to encourage your child’s comprehension of the material. Assign less practice when you are confident that he or she has an understanding of the lessons. On the other hand, if more time is required, slow the pace down a bit. It’s more important to ensure understanding and evolve to your child’s pace than simply move through the material at a predetermined pace. This will allow you to keep your child engaged and interested.

**Teaching is Everywhere**
Another part of the homeschooling benefit is that teaching can occur anytime. You can incorporate learning into everyday life. When you are outside of “school” ask your child about concepts learned in previous lessons. Tie them into life situations and world events. Additionally, you can implement exercises to work outside of your homeschool environment. Check your local libraries for reading events, or museums for art events to enhance your teaching curriculum. Consider beginning your lessons with fun and engaging activities that relate to the literature selection, to break-up the pace and stimulate your child’s learning process. And don’t forget to use your own resources to complement the material, and tie the lessons into your child’s interests and hobbies.

**Conflicting Materials**
Any homeschool parent will be faced with the dilemma of what to do when you come across material in the curriculum you don’t like or that you disagree with. No curriculum will ever be able to satisfy all of the beliefs, opinions or values held by each family. However, there are several approaches you can take in these situations.

One approach is to skip over the material in question. Another suggestion would be to use this as an opportunity for a special teachable moment. Review the material with your child. Discuss your feelings about the material, idea or value presented. Take the opportunity to prepare your child for the diversity of thought/opinion in the world and the need to be discerning of principles and ideas that may challenge yours.

There is a definite balance between having the freedom that homeschool brings and the responsibility you assume in educating your child. The good news is that most families find that balance and it works for them.
Thank you

As you progress along the journey, you will have moments of frustration and moments that make it all worthwhile. Remember to keep it in perspective. Homeschool parents live for those moments when their children are most teachable. You will know when those moments happen as you can see the light go on, they really get it. Cherish those times and use them as the fuel to motivate you through the tough times.

Thank you for choosing Pearson as a partner in your homeschool journey. We know the importance that you place in taking the time to teach your child and we appreciate your trust in us to help you and your child achieve the best education possible.

For additional programs to support your child's language arts curriculum, please visit our website at: www.PearsonHomeschool.com

For technical support for the Teacher's Resource Library, please call 1-800-328-2560 and select option 3.

For other product related questions, please call 1-800-848-9500 or submit the Contact Us form available on our website.