

Jacob's Ladder is a supplemental reading program developed by the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary. Students engage in an inquiry process that moves from lower order to higher order thinking skills, as they learn to critically analyze texts by determining implications and consequences, generalizations, main ideas, and/or creative synthesis.

Junior Great Books uses *Shared Inquiry*, a method of teaching and learning that enables people of all ages to explore the ideas, meaning, and information found in everything they read. It centers on interpretive questions that have more than one plausible answer and can lead to engaging and insightful conversations about the text. Based on the conviction that participants can gain a deeper understanding of a text when they work together, each student engages in an active search for the meaning of a work by reading closely, asking questions, and discussing actively. Discussion leaders provide direction and guidance in order to get participants thinking, listening, and responding to questions and answers from others in their discussion groups.

Junior Great Books Nonfiction Inquiry brings inquiry-based learning to informational texts specifically designed for evaluative questioning. Topics are of high interest to students and provide a wide range of integration across the curriculum. Units align with grade-appropriate national benchmarks in science and social studies, as well as national standards for reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Topics that are both of high interest to students and that provide a wide-range of integration across the curriculum. The units align with grade-appropriate national benchmarks in science and social studies, as well as national standards for reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students follow our inquiry-based sequence of activities for each text. They read for understanding, ask questions, reread and take notes, form ideas about an issue in the text, and support those ideas with evidence—all essential skills for proficient readers and thinkers.

Junior Great Books ThinkIt is a unique program that provides critical thinking practice. Aligned with national standards, it combines authentic critical thinking activities, excellent nonfiction texts, and a flexible format. ThinkIt offers a detailed explanation of what critical thinking is and a complete program for building and strengthening critical thinking skills. The nonfiction reading selections are complex and authentic, and activities combine careful reading, mindful interaction with the text, thoughtful analysis, and creative response.

William and Mary Language Arts units develop students' skills in literary analysis and interpretation, persuasive writing, linguistic competency, and oral communication as well as strengthen students' reasoning skills. The units engage students in exploring carefully selected, challenging works of literature from various times, cultures, and genres and encourage students to reflect on their readings through writing and discussion. The units also provide numerous opportunities for students to explore interdisciplinary connections to the language arts and to conduct research around issues relevant to their own lives.

Journeys and Destinations uses an inquiry-based approach to investigate literature in an interdisciplinary, multicultural curriculum. The guiding theme of this unit is the recognition of change as a concept that affects people and their relationships to the world around them. An open-ended approach to the discussion process is emphasized in the search for meaning in literature selections such as Aesop's fables, *The Green Book*, *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain*, and "The Ugly Duckling." Vocabulary development, writing activities, oral communication, research, and reasoning are integrated into the unit.

Literary Reflections encourages students to interact with literature while enhancing reading comprehension and textual analysis skills. All four language arts strands of literature, writing, language study, and oral communication are integrated into this unit. The literature selections, including *The Secret Garden* and world-class short stories by such authors as Tolstoy and Singer, serve as a basis for discussion.

Project M³: Mentoring Mathematical Minds is a series of curriculum units developed to motivate and challenge mathematically talented students at the elementary level. *Project M³* has long been recognized as one of the nation's top programs in gifted mathematics education, and supports national standards and exemplary practices outlined by the National Association of Gifted Children. It features explorations of simulated or real-life problems so students can actively solve them in the same ways that practicing mathematicians do.

Hands On Equations presents a physical and intuitive model of basic algebra. Early success with algebraic concepts provides students with a tremendous sense of mathematical power and self-confidence, bolsters students' mathematical interests, and provides a concrete foundation for later algebraic work.