

## **Teacher Education Institute (TEI)**

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### **English: Mother Tongue**

In a wider perspective the study of English, or any other mother tongue, is part of the area of speech. The two direct manifestations of speech are the spoken and written word. These will be covered in “English: Mother Tongue” and “English Literature”. Please note that the introduction and development of Writing and Reading are dealt with in the presentation “Learning to Write and Read”.

English: Mother Tongue covers the teaching of grammar and speech. Throughout the grades development of good speech occurs through a) retelling stories b) reciting poetry - individual and choral, and c) drama.

Specific areas are as follows. The teaching of grammar begins in grade 2 and continues in grade 3; this should be presented informally and arising out of story content. Children need to gain an intuitive feeling for grammar. One approach that can sometimes be used is to relate parts of speech to colour. For example, the warmth and activity of red to write the verbs; the coldness of blue for the nouns; and the living quality of green for the adjectives. By grade 3 children should be able to compose a piece of prose.

In grade 4 the tenses and the changing forms of the verb are covered as well as prepositions. Other areas are the development of story writing, the composition of various types of letters (including business letters), while poetry, prose and drama are introduced and covered extensively.

In poetry, the emphasis is on alliteration with opportunities for children to create their own alliterative verses. The emphasis is on creative experience rather than on the correctness of the finished product.

In grades 5/6 active and passive verbs, direct and indirect speech, prefixes and suffixes, and the use of dictionary are covered. Much of the children’s writing has been based on what they have read or had explained to them. Now they should be encouraged towards far more free composition. Students also obtain more experience of letter writing and study the metres of poetry, verse forms, rhythms and study of the figures of speech. Drama is always included in each grade.

In grades 7/8 students learn about the inner plastic quality of language as well as the study of longer works of prose and poetry. They are also engaged in writing compositions of various types - imaginative, expository, descriptive. Students are also involved in more ambitious works of drama.