

One Lamplighter Way
Mount Hermon, Massachusetts
01354-9638



Telephone: 413-498-3290
Fax: 413-498-3112
summer_school@nmhschool.org
www.nmhschool.org

NMH SUMMER SESSION

2010
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
Speech and Oral Interpretation

This course was designed for ESL students who tested at the highest levels at the beginning of the summer session. It aimed to improve their mastery of the spoken and written language. The object was to enhance each student's skills in speaking, writing, reading aloud, and listening.

Verbal communication was stressed in a number of ways. The students spoke to the class daily, both from the lectern and from their seats. They recited poetry, some of which they had memorized, most of which came from Billy Collins's Poetry 180, the Library of Congress website. They composed summaries of newspaper articles and, every other day, took a crossword puzzle quiz containing words gleaned from their reading. In addition, they studied and were tested on the elementary rules of usage as presented in *The Elements of Style*.

The students were provided with regular commentary from their classmates as well as their instructors about their poise, pronunciation, enunciation, energy, eye contact, audibility, phrasing, tempo, and general effectiveness. Daily, their teachers evaluated and commented publicly on some of their written work.

The class joined other ESL students on a field trip to Boston, where they took a guided tour of the Freedom Trail. At the end of the session, the class held a declamation contest, with each student reciting Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" before a panel of judges.

The course met for three hours, six days a week, for the five-week session. The students were expected to complete three hours of homework for each class.

TEXTS:

Dave Barry's Only Travel Guide You'll Ever Need, Dave Barry

Dave Barry Is not Making This Up, Dave Barry

Questions About Angels, Billy Collins

Seabiscuit, Laura Hillenbrand

The Elements of Style, Strunk and White

Master Teacher: Charles Hamilton

Teaching Intern: Elizabeth Leberman
Bates College