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NMH SUMMER SESSION

**2010**  
**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**  
**Beginning Level**

The course was designed to expose learners of English to a variety of opportunities to develop their confidence in expressing themselves and to improve how they write, speak, read, and listen in English.

Each morning, the students wrote in their journals at the beginning of class. They improved their reading and writing skills through an in-depth study of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and received weekly vocabulary lists of words from the book. Vocabulary activities included interactive games, homework assignments, and sentence writing that helped the students to spell, pronounce, and use the words correctly. Reading comprehension activities incorporated the analysis of primary and secondary characters, as well as recurring themes. Journaling topics spawned from the book's themes. The students also engaged in reflective writing that intertwined the book's main themes and their own experiences and lives as language learners.

Grammar was addressed through *Grammar Dimensions 2* by Benz and Roemer. Topics included the regular and irregular forms of the present perfect and past perfect tenses, with a focus on the use of the past participle as an action verb and an adjective. The students reviewed how to express actions in the past, ranging from the simple present tense through the past perfect. Homework assignments and in-class work challenged them to incorporate the perfect tenses into their writing and interactions with one another. Their journals, homework assignments, and evaluations dictated the evolving content of the grammar component of the course.

The class took weekly field trips, including visits to Shelburne Falls, the Smith College Art Museum, the city of Boston, and the Tregellys Fiber Farm to learn about how communities and individuals work together, both locally and regionally. Upon returning from Boston, the students researched a topic that interested them and later presented it to the class in a PowerPoint document. The course culminated with a formal evaluation that contained vocabulary, reading, and other material covered during the summer.

The class met for three hours, six days a week, for the five-week session.

Master Teacher: Nathaniel Simpson  
Williston Northampton School

Teaching Intern: Rachel Gleicher  
Colby College