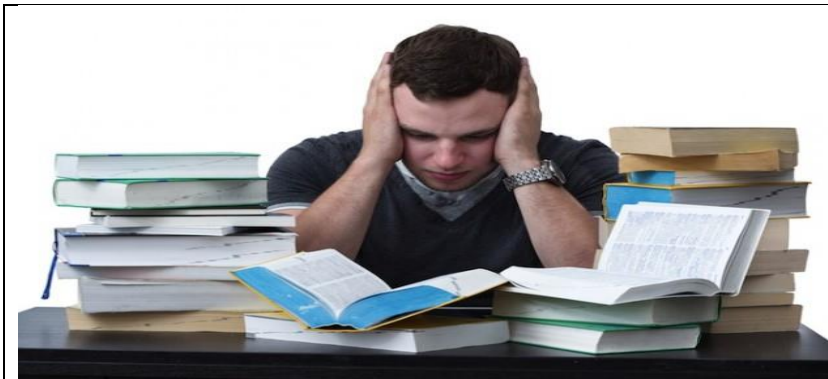


WHAT IS LANGUAGE ARTS FOR ESL?



Learning a new language can be a slow and frustrating process. Students begin with alphabetic and early phonetic sounds, move toward basic vocabulary and grammar structures, but often stay at this beginning level for many years.



Many students enter some form of **Language Arts** class for ESL (English as a Second Language). These classes include: Grammar, Spelling, Writing and Speaking, but are meant to only graduate the student out of the beginning level.

In time, the student begins to master a wide range of vocabulary terms, grammar rules and achieve an intermediate or advanced communication level. Yet for many ESL students, they never participate in two crucial Language Arts classes: Reading, which is the study of literature and literary devices; and Composition, which is the writing of thesis driven paragraphs and various narrative, expository, and persuasive essays.

Instead, in ESL schools around the world, students are pushed into rigorous standardized testing that includes: TOEFL, TOEIC, ACT, SAT, and GRE exams. These exams are important standards of achievement in assessing English ability globally and in the business world, but stunt the personal growth of the student, as these tests do not teach how to appreciate the joy of language, the culture of words, or the art of storytelling.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

These standardized test classes are often more interested in turning a profit from “cram school” techniques and “quick fix” English lessons, but never attempt to develop the student as a caring, compassionate, and thoughtful person. Students study merely to achieve a high score, gain entrance into a fancy school, or earn employment from a job, and nothing else. It is often a sad and hopeless kind of academic pursuit that creates a dissatisfied and disinterested student. Parents and educators must ask themselves, should we study music only to memorize a Beethoven sonata?



Instead, shouldn't music be studied to develop a thoughtfulness toward other people and an appreciation for the beauty of the human soul? If you agree, then there is an alternative path for you.



The **ESL Literature Project** is for the student who wishes to enrich their life through the study of literature, drama, poetry, literary device, logic, and persuasion. It is for the lover of stories: myths, fables, romances, science fiction, adventure, autobiographies, legends, short stories, and novels. Yes, studying literature will help your business communication and help you land that all important job, but it will also broaden your world perspective, give you insight into the behavior of other people, and help you understand the meaning of your own life. Literature helps make you a better person. If you can learn to tell and talk about a story, you will not only master the English language, but you will master yourself.