

Do you love words? Do you love to read? Do you plan to go to college? If you say yes to any of those questions, this class is for you!

Our main focus is on expanding academic vocabulary through the joyful study of Latin and Greek “stems” (roots, prefixes, suffixes), utilizing the “Word Within The Word” approach developed by Michael Clay Thompson (Royal Fireworks Press). Thompson describes his approach as one where “vocabulary is presented not as a set of lists of words but as a system of thinking, a way of building, analyzing, spelling, pronouncing, using, and choosing words.” No boring, disjointed vocabulary lists to memorize as many parents may recall from their own school days. Instead, this logical, coherent, and intuitive approach to vocabulary, centered on stem etymology, brings word families to life and rewards effort with success.

Learning Latin and Greek stems can be thought of as a form of “power-learning.” Research shows that learning one hundred of the most important Latin stems results in the knowledge of thousands of words that extend far beyond the particular words under study. The explosive rate at which vocabulary develops using this method will surprise and delight all students, and what is learned is likely to be well retained.

Acquiring an expansive vocabulary will set the student up for success in nearly all academic fields, including science, medicine, history, business, law, and foreign language study, to name just a few. And as a side benefit, reading great literature for class or for pleasure will be all the more enjoyable as the road is cleared of lexical stumbling blocks.

In addition to the study of Latin and Greek stems, coursework includes analogies, examples from literature, and critical thinking exercises. And of course word games and contests! Students will even learn how to use a comprehensive thesaurus based on Peter Mark Roget’s classification system, so they are equipped to find the perfect word for that essay or speech. Also included is practical instruction on how to effectively use a dictionary, including how to decipher those mysterious pronunciation symbols!

Our textbook/workbook, “Word Within The Word,” is included in course tuition. You will not need to purchase any additional materials.

Course tuition: \$240