



Book Study: *The Cricket in Times Square* **Syllabus**

Course Description: Throughout this class, students engage directly with George Selden's 1960, Newbery Honor-winning book, *The Cricket in Times Square*. While reading the entire text, students will study Selden's use of description and practice their own descriptive responses alongside unexpected but fun characters – Chester Cricket, Tucker Mouse, and Harry Cat. Weekly vocabulary lists will be included with each lesson for study or spelling practice. **Students must have their own copy of the text for this class.**

Prerequisite: *The Composition* or equivalent experience.

Course Outline:

Week One: *A Very Strange Sound*

- Read Chapter 1-2
- Describing Sights, Sounds, & Characters

Week Two: *One Familiar Thing*

- Read Chapters 3-4
- Describing Experiences & Places

Week Three: *A Cricket House*

- Read Chapters 5-6
- Describing Different Cultures

Week Four: *A Bad Dream*

- Read Chapters 7-8
- Describing Home & Problems/Solutions

Week Five: *Mulberry Leaves*

- Read Chapters 9-10
- Describing Feelings & Fun

Week Six: *Who Was Singing?*

- Read Chapters 11-12
- Describing Memories, Ideas, and Miracles

Week Seven: *Read About the Cricket!*

- Read Chapters 13-14
- Describing Dislikes and Change

Week Eight: *The Bell*

- Read Chapter 15
- Describing Goodbyes
- Final Response

Grading Information: All assignments will be graded using *The Beginning Writer* grading rubric and will be averaged to receive a final course grade.