



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.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT EDITIONS: Students must have their own copy of the text for this class. However, please note that this book has recently undergone some updates/revisions to be more culturally sensitive. Any edition published/printed prior to May 2022 is the original. Any edition published/printed May 2022 or after is the updated edition. **This class is written based on the original text.** Students with the new edition should not experience any significant challenges in terms of completing the homework, but there may be discrepancies between some of the lesson material and the content of the revised edition.

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.