

# Mercer Island World Language Spanish Learning Targets

## Level 4 Spanish AP

### **First Semester Textbook: Encuentros Maravillosos**

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This upper level Spanish course is designed to give the students a thorough review of previously learned material, emphasizing the more complex verb structures and a much more sophisticated vocabulary, while at the same time introducing them to a number of the most notable writers of Spanish and Latin American literature. The literary works, some excerpts and others printed in their entirety have been selected for their linguistic accessibility and for their ability to promote meaningful conversations through relevant, stimulating themes.

### **Themes and Literature Selections:**

1. Dreams vs. reality (magical realism)  
**"El Otro"** Jorge Luis Borges
2. Coping with the loss of someone or something special  
**"Un perro ha muerto"** Pablo Neruda
3. Personal idiosyncrasies  
**"Viajes"** and **"Tortugas y Cronopios"**  
Julio Cortazar
4. Response to parental expectations  
**"Nada menos que todo un hombre"** Miguel de Unamuno
5. Pivotal childhood experiences  
**"El niño al que se le murió el amigo"** Ana Maria Matute
6. The real, the unreal and the absurd  
**"Cien años de soledad"** Gabriel Garcia Marquez
7. Intergenerational conflict  
**"Como agua para chocolate"** Laura Esquivel

8. Superstitions  
    **"Romance de la luna, luna"**
9. Extraordinary behavior  
    **"La casa de los espíritus"** Isabel Allende
10. Cultural diversity and tolerance  
    **"El hablador"** Mario Vargas Llosa

### **Skills:**

By the end of the first semester of AP Spanish, students will have:

- Increased their vocabulary through readings and a variety of practices.
- Read a number of higher level reading selections and will have checked for comprehension by answering meaningful questions.
- Demonstrated an increase in their listening comprehension by listening to a variety of recorded selections and then answering questions about what they heard.
- Increased their speaking proficiency by speaking about, discussing, debating, etc a number of pertinent topics in small and large groups within the class.
- Developed their writing skills through frequent journal entries and directed compositions followed by consistent feedback
- Increased their cultural awareness and knowledge by investigating a number of cultural topics.

### **Grammar: (Review and reinforcement)**

- Review of all verb tenses: present, preterit, imperfect, future, conditional, perfects and progressives; regular and irregular
  - Passive voice with `se
  - Ser vs. Estar
  - Direct and indirect objects
  - Reflexive verbs
  - Present and past subjunctives: formation and functions
  - Use of `se' plus the indirect object pronoun to talk about unexpected events
  - Commands
  - Uses of Por vs. Para

- Lo que, lo cual; lo + adjective
- Prepositions
- Indefinite expressions like 'dondequiera'

## **Second Semester Textbook: Triangulo** Wayside Publishing

At this point of Spanish study the students have arrived at a certain level of proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking ability, reading and writing that has developed step by step. At the least, students are able to communicate in a clear and simple Spanish. This part of the course is designed to challenge and to help students to take this proficiency to a much higher level and to prepare them for the AP exam at the same time. The course follows the format and organization of the Advanced Placement Spanish Language exam. The vocabulary is theme specific and the practices are designed to reinforce what the students already know as well as clarify concepts with which they are having problems. Students are given many opportunities to practice speaking and reading.

### **Themes:**

1. The home
2. The health
3. The environment
4. Travel
5. Pastimes
6. Sports
7. School
8. The consumer
9. Personal relationships
10. Society

### **Practices focus on:**

- Listening comprehension
- Vocabulary acquisition
- Grammar
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking

After the AP exam is completed, the course will shift its focus to a variety cultural studies for the rest of the term.