

June 2018

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Dear Students,

Welcome to the seventh grade! Please complete the assignments for reading as outlined below. All work must be completed by the first day of school.

Summer Reading Assignment

1) Academic Vocabulary - Study the attached list of literary elements and devices. You are familiar with many of the words already. We will review these words in the fall, and you will be tested on them. They will be essential to the seventh grade course work.

2) Fiction Book - Read the novel *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle and complete the following assignment which will be graded for the first quarter:

Create a timeline of ten main events in the book. Name the events and include a *brief* description of each. Include five illustrations - these may be drawn or downloaded. Please complete on a piece of posterboard.

3) Informational Book - Read the DK Biography *Benjamin Franklin: A Photographic Story of a Life* by Stephen Krensky and complete the following assignment which will be graded:

Pretend you are a news reporter interviewing Benjamin Franklin. After reading the book, write six *thought provoking* questions to ask Mr. Franklin. Simple questions such as, "What is your name?" are not acceptable. An example of a thought provoking question would be something such as, "What do you believe your most important scientific discovery or invention was? Explain why." Write the responses you think he would give based on what you have read. Each response must be one to two paragraphs long. Complete in a question then answer format. Put a full heading. The title of the assignment is Interviewing Mr. Franklin. It may be typed or completed neatly on loose leaf paper.

I wish you all a restful, fun, and safe summer. See you in September!

Mrs. Macri

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Character: One of the people, animals, machines, creatures in a story, play, or literary work.

- **Protagonist:** The main character in a story, often a good or heroic type.
- **Antagonist:** The person or force that works against the hero of the story.

Conflict: A problem or struggle between two opposing forces in a story. There are four basic conflicts:

External-

- **Person Against Person:** A problem between characters.
- **Person Against Society:** A problem between a character and society, school, the law, or some tradition.
- **Person Against Nature:** A problem between a character and some element of nature—a blizzard, a hurricane, a mountain, etc.

Internal-

- **Person Against Self:** A problem within a character's own mind.

Dialogue: The conversations that characters have with one another.

Mood: The feeling a piece of literature is intended to create in a reader.

Moral: The lesson a story teaches.

Narrator: The person or character who actually tells the story, filling in the background information and bridging the gaps between dialogue.

Plot: The action that makes up the story, following a plan called the plot line.

Plot line: The planned action or series of events in a story. There are five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

- **Exposition:** The part of the story, usually near the beginning, in which the characters are introduced, the background is explained, and the setting is described.
- **Rising Action:** The central part of the story during which various problems arise after a conflict is introduced.
- **Climax:** The high point in the action of a story reveals how the conflict will turn out.
- **Falling Action:** The action and dialogue following the climax that leads the reader into the story's end.
- **Resolution:** The part of the story in which the problems are solved and the action comes to a satisfying end. *Also called **denouement**

Setting: The place and the time frame in which a story takes place.

Style: The distinctive way that a writer uses language, including such factors as word choice, sentence length, arrangement, and complexity, and the use of figurative language and imagery.

Theme: The message about life or human nature that is "the focus" in the story that the writer tells.

Tone: The attitude that a writer takes toward his/her subject, characters, and audience.

What a character!

Characters can be **round, flat, dynamic,** or **static** depending on how well-developed they are by the author and what their purpose is in the story.

round character

a character who is well-developed enough that the reader is able to identify his/her personality as well as physical and emotional traits

dynamic character

a character who is changed by the actions

flat character

a character who is a standard type built around a single idea or quality

static character

a character who changes little or not at all

LITERARY DEVICES

Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds used to emphasize and link words and to create pleasing, musical sounds.

(e.g., the fair breeze blew,
the white foam flew;
creamy and crunchy

Allusion: A reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or work of art to enrich the reading experience by adding meaning.
(e.g., She opened Pandora's box when she asked the question.)

Characterization: Techniques a writer uses to create and develop a character's personality or traits.

Indirect characterization

- character's words and actions
- character's looks and clothing
- character's thoughts and feelings
- what other characters say about him/her, or how they react to him/her

Direct characterization

- the author reveals directly or through a narrator.

Dialect: Speech that reflects pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar typical of a geographical region.
(e.g., "Where y'at?" "Who dat?"
"How y'all doin'?"")

Flashback: Interruption of the chronological (time) order to show something that occurred before the beginning of the story. It usually gives background information the reader or audience needs to understand the present action.

Figurative Language: Language that has meaning beyond the literal or actual meaning; also known as "figures of speech."

- **Simile:** comparison of two things using the words "like" or "as" (e.g., "Her hair was as soft as silk." "The ginkgo's tune is like a chorus.")
- **Metaphor:** comparison of two things essentially different but with some commonalities; does not use "like" or "as" (e.g., "Her hair was silk." "The fog comes on little cat feet.")
- **Hyperbole:** a purposeful exaggeration for emphasis or humor—stretching the truth (e.g., "I have told you a million times." "He vanished into thin air.")
- **Personification:** human qualities attributed to an animal, object, or idea (e.g., "The wind whistled through the trees.")

Foreshadowing: Important hints or clues that an author gives to prepare the reader or audience for what is to come and to help the reader or audience anticipate the outcome.

Imagery: Words or phrases that appeal to the reader's senses—smell, sight, taste touch, hearing. It is used to create pictures in the reader's mind.

Humor: The quality of a literary or informative work that makes the character and/or situations seem funny, amusing, or ludicrous.

Allegory: a story or poem which uses symbols or metaphors to convey a deeper meaning in addition to its surface meaning.
"The Road Not Taken" Robert Frost

LITERARY DEVICES

Irony: A technique that involves surprising, interesting, or amusing contradictions or contrasts.

- *Verbal irony* occurs when words are used to suggest the opposite of their usual meaning.
- *Situational irony* occurs when an event directly contradicts what is expected.
- *Dramatic irony* occurs when the audience or reader knows something a character does not know.

Onomatopoeia: The use of words that imitate sounds.

(e.g., *snap, crackle, pop, buzz, swish, or crunch.*)

Point of View: Perspective from which the story is told

- *First-person:* narrator is a character in the story; uses "I," "we," etc.
- *Third-person:* narrator outside the story; uses "he," "she," "they"
- *Third-person limited:* narrator tells only what one character perceives
- *Third-person omniscient:* narrator can see into the minds of all characters.

Satire: Writing that comments humorously on human flaws, ideas, social customs, or institutions in order to change them.

Style: The distinctive way that a writer uses language, including such factors as word choice, sentence length, arrangement, and complexity, and the use of figurative language and imagery.

Suspense: A feeling of excitement, anxiety, curiosity, or expectation about what will happen.

Symbol: Person, place, thing, or event that represents something beyond itself, most often something concrete or tangible that represents an abstract idea.
(e.g., *A dove is a symbol for peace.*)

