

GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

May/June 2017

MAY AND JUNE CLASSROOM FOCUS

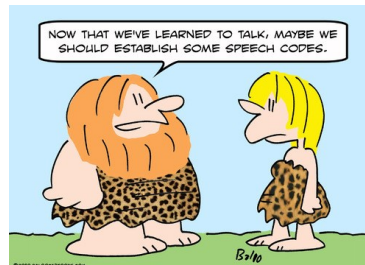
Students are currently reading about the beginnings of space exploration with the 1957 launching of Sputnik I. While reading this complex text, they are learning how to determine text structure, target the main idea, understand vocabulary through context clues, and summarize a piece of writing to demonstrate comprehension. They will also synthesize the information

from multiple texts to explain how Sputnik and the Challenger disaster of 1986 affected space travel in the U.S.

Students are also working on their informational writing pieces, using different types of text structures. Research skill are incorporated into the learning as well.

All year long, we have been learning and practicing techniques to partake in academic

discussion using our accountable talk charts. During these last weeks of the school year, students will also be putting their public speaking skills to work by giving classroom presentations on a variety of topics.



Reading Recommendations

<i>Fablehaven</i> by Brandon Mull	Gr 6
<i>The Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis	Gr 7
<i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> by Sean Covey	Gr 8

*May/June: MA ELA State Standards

- RI.7.3. Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g. how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events.)
- W.7.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- SL.7.4. Present claims and finding, emphasizing salient points in a focused coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the months of May and June as well.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

You can make a difference in your child's speaking skills just by having conversations with him or her on a daily basis. Sometimes talking to our pre-teens can be like pulling teeth, so sometimes we need to go the extra mile to start the conversation.

One idea is to create a conversation jar by placing random ques-

tions into a jar and pulling a different one out each evening at the dinner table or before your child goes to bed. There are hundreds of conversation starter questions for teens that can be found on the internet with a simple Google search.

If your child is nervous about speaking in front of an audience, have him

or her practice what they want to say in front of a mirror. Then, after they have organized their thoughts and words, they can practice eye contact using stuffed animals or action figures before moving on and practicing before the family.

Public speaking is a life-long skill that only gets better with practice.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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