

GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

"The art of communication is the language of leadership." - James Humes

September 2017

SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

We hope our seventh graders have returned to us refreshed and ready to hone their communication skills while exploring diverse topics. From racism to Sputnik; Paul Revere to the Americans with Disabilities Act; we want to expose students to a range of literature and build their background information.

Students will delve into point of view this month, examining excerpts from the text, *Witness*. They

will also do a close reading of an excerpt from Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" to examine the development of mood and tone in a piece of literature.

They delve deeper into reading as they begin to apply the concepts they learn to their own piece of writing. Ultimately they will write a chapter for the book *Seedfolks* told from another person's point of view.

All students will continue to use our district's *Accountable Talk Chart* to enhance their speaking and listening skills in the classroom. Using respectful language and logical reasoning when discussing any issue is a lifelong skill-set that we strive to develop in each and every student.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us.

Reading Recommendations

<i>The Westing Game</i> by Ellen Raskin	Gr 6
<i>Waiting for Normal</i> by Leslie Connor	Gr 7
<i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</i> by Phillip Hoose	Gr 8

*September MA ELA State Standards

- RL.7.1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what a text states explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, quoting or paraphrasing as appropriate.
- RL.7.6. Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
- W.7.3a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.
- SL.7.1b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress towards specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of September as well.

A COMMUNITY OF READERS CELEBRATION

Our two goals for summer reading are to inspire a lifelong love of reading and to promote and develop literacy skills. This fall, students will meet with teachers and students who read the same book, and they will have a chance to interact and share with one another using their chosen book as a foundation.

There will be no test or project; it will simply be a time to engage with others around reading. If you don't already know, ask your child which book group they are joining.

Community of Readers Celebration Dates:

NMS: October 25, 2017

SMS: November 2, 2017

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

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

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