

Seventh Grade Advanced Language Arts II

May 16, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

My name is Gina Terry and I'm excited to serve as your child's seventh-grade language arts teacher during the upcoming 2011/2012 school year. I look forward to getting to know both you and your child over the next school year.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the incoming seventh-grade language arts summer coursework that your child will be expected to complete prior to school resuming this coming August 2011. The coursework for language arts will be a two-part assignment: a reading component and a vocabulary component.

For the reading component, your child will choose one novel from the attached book list. Upon completion of reading the novel, your child will create a project based on his or her chosen book. Your child will then present his or her project in class. This project will be due by **Friday, September 2, 2011**. Presentations will begin **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**. Please refer to the project description, the attached book list, and the grading rubric for more information about this assignment.

For the vocabulary component of the summer coursework, your child will need to look up and study each of the words and their definitions on the attached vocabulary list. He or she will need to design a study tool that best suits his or her learning style (flashcards, vocabulary foldable, study game, etc.) and bring it to school on the day of the vocabulary test. Be creative! The completed study tool will account for 25% of the vocabulary test grade. The test will be taken on **Friday, September 2, 2011**.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at ginaterry@mckeelacademy.com. Please complete the acknowledgement form below and return to your sixth-grade advisory teacher by **Tuesday, May 24**.

Thank you for your time and support in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Terry

Please cut along the line and return to your current advisory teacher by Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

Acknowledgement: Please complete the information below.

I understand that my child, _____, will be responsible to complete all required seventh-grade summer coursework (as outlined above) by Friday, September 2, of the 2011/2012 school year at McKeel Academy of Technology.

I understand that my child will receive a grade for both components (reading and vocabulary) of the seventh-grade language arts summer coursework.

Parent's Name (please print): _____ E-mail address: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Reading Component Project Description

Your child will be using the website www.glogster.com to create a presentation for his or her chosen book from the list below. Your child will need to set up an account in Glogster that he or she will use for other projects throughout the year. Please write down this login information in a safe place for later use.

The Glogster presentation should include the following items:

1. Title and author of the book
2. A book summary
3. A description of the main character(s) in the book
4. Three pictures that represent the events or characters in your book (and a short description for each picture)
5. Your opinion of the book and an explanation for why you feel this way

Summer Coursework Book List 2011 for Reading Component Project

***PLEASE CHOOSE ONE BOOK FROM THE LIST BELOW.**

Historical Fiction

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool (2010)

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly (2009)

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick (2009)

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror

Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix (2008)

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (2005)

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (2003)

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (2009)

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (2010)

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (2009)

Adventure Fiction

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (2007)

I.Q. Independence Hall by Roland Smith (2008)

Realistic Fiction

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass (2010)

Abduction! By Peg Kehret (2006)

Double Dutch by Sharon Draper (2003)

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen (2007)

***Many of the books included in the list above have won book awards over the past ten years. Other books included are favorites and suggestions by the 2010/2011 seventh grade students.

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Rubric for Reading Component Project

The project is worth 50 points total and will be due on Friday, September 2, 2011.

(The actual presentation of the project will count for a separate grade)

	10	5	0
Title and Author	The student included the title and author of the book in the Glogster presentation.	The student included the title or the author of the book in the Glogster presentation (but not both).	The student did NOT include the title or author of the book in the Glogster presentation.
Quality of Summary	The summary of the book is well-written and thorough, including all the important events and characters from the book.	The summary of the book shows some effort but may not include some of the important events and characters from the book.	The summary of the books shows very little effort and does not include many of the important events and characters from the book.
Description of Main Character(s)	The main character(s) is/are identified and a detailed description is provided.	The main character(s) is/are identified but the description is lacking in detail or is not provided at all.	The main character(s) is/are NOT identified and the description is not provided.
Pictures and Descriptions	At least THREE pictures representing the story are included and a description (caption) is provided for each.	One-two pictures representing the story are included and a description (caption) is provided for each.	No pictures representing the story and/or no descriptions are included.
Student Opinion and Explanation	The student provides his or her opinion about the book and gives a well-thought explanation for why he or she feels this way.	The student provides his or her opinion about the book but does not explain why he or she feels this way.	The student does NOT provide his or her opinion about the book or an explanation.

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Vocabulary List

alliteration	flashback	personification
analogy	foreshadowing	plot
antagonist	genre	point-of-view
antonym	inference	protagonist
autobiography	main idea	rhyme
biography	metaphor	setting
conflict	moral	sequence
context	narrative	simile
diction	narrator	suspense
excerpt	nonfiction	synonym
fact	onomatopoeia	theme
fiction	opinion	

Study Tool Ideas:

To create your vocabulary study tool, you may choose from the following ideas or you may feel free to use a different idea not listed below as long as it fulfils the requirements outlined in the rubric below.

1. A set of flashcards with the term on one side and its definition on the other side.
2. Vocabulary Foldable – visit the following website for a foldable template:
<http://www.lauracandler.com/filecabinet/literacy/PDFRead/VocabFoldDir.pdf>
3. Board Game – be creative!

Rubric for Vocabulary Study Tool

This study tool counts toward 25% of the overall vocabulary test average and will be due on the test date, Friday, September 2, 2011.

	Exemplary Work	Needs Improvement
Definitions	A complete definition is provided for each vocabulary word.	A definition is not provided for each vocabulary word.
Effort	Thought and effort are evident in this study tool.	Minimal thought or effort was applied to this study tool.
Ease of Use and Purpose	The study tool is easy to use and is effective in aiding students in learning their vocabulary terms.	The study tool is difficult to use or is not very helpful in aiding students in learning their vocabulary terms.