

Grades 6/7 & 7/8
Language Arts / Social Studies
Activity Guide to supplement LA/SS Syllabi & WSLP

December
Poetry, Spoken Word, and Persuasive Writing

Please bring all work to class each time. Even if you are only partly done your work it helps to see what you have accomplished.

#1. Novel and Non-Fiction Reading:

Select and read a fiction favorite from one of your parent's childhood. We did this last year and it was a blast. See me if you have any questions about this. Read thirty minutes each day. Each of you should complete the monthly book assignment on at least one of the books you read.

Book Assignment: Complete One!

1. Pick the big idea/theme of your book and write an essay that examines this topic in the book, your life and/or the world.
2. Pick an intriguing character from the book and write an essay about his/her motivations, aspirations, success and failures. What lessons can you or others learn about life from this character's actions?
3. Create a movie poster for the book you read. Be sure to have a paragraph on the plot without giving away the ending.
4. Discuss the book with your parent and write about the similarities and differences in your thoughts and feelings on the book, its characters and the theme. (You might even challenge your parent to reread this book.)

#2. Writing Assignments: Poetry:

Each class period we will work on writing and illustrating a poem in a particular form. This should be a blast! YAY Poetry! Complete the work for each week and bring it the following Monday. Each student will also be memorizing a poem to present. I am hoping to have a Cocoa House the week before vacation. I am looking for some parents who might want to help with this.

Week 1 - Poetry Form # 1 and # 2 typed or neatly written and illustrated.
Start to memorize poem.

Week 2 - Poetry Form # 3 and # 4 typed or neatly written and illustrated.

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Work on memorizing poem.

Week 3 - Poetry Form # 5 and # 6 typed or neatly written and illustrated.

Complete memorization of poem.

Week 4 - Complete poetry book and present.

#3. Social Studies - Controversial Topics and Solutions for Today's World

Week 1 - Argumentative Essay/Letter- Choose a topic and complete outline.
Decide who you want to mail letter to.

Week 2 - Argumentative Essay/Letter- Write rough draft

Week 3 - Argumentative Essay/Letter- Write final draft

Week 4 - Argumentative Essay/Letter- Final draft

#4. Geography: Countries of the World: Africa

This year we are going to learn the countries of the world. We will start with Africa. You can use Sheppard Software:

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/African_Geography.htm

Week 1 - Begin learning countries of South and Central America (10)

Week 2 - Continue to memorize countries of South and Central America (20)

Week 3 - Memorize all countries of South and Central America

Week 4 - Quiz - Countries of South and Central America.

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Assignment Check Sheet 6 & 7/8 Language Arts/ Social Studies

Reading	Date Due	Completed	Score
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Writing/ Researching			
Poems 1 & 2			
Poems 3 & 4			
Poems 5 & 6			
Social Studies			
Arg. Essay Controversial Topic			
Countries of South and Central America			