

7th Grade Language Arts Summer Work 2018

Welcome to 7th grade!

Your summer reading will include two books with accompanying assignments. Both assignments are due the first day you return in September.

First:

All rising 7th graders are to read *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson. This book has been selected for three reasons:

- It tells an interesting and engaging story.
- It has a local connection in that it takes place in Philadelphia.
- The setting of the story is an historical time that is part of the 7th grade Social Studies curriculum.

From a review on amazon.com:

Fever 1793 is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 5,000 people--or 10 percent of the city's population--in three months. Philadelphia was the bustling capital of the United States, with Washington and Jefferson in residence. During the hot mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire, killing people overnight . . . The rich fled to the country, abandoning the city to looters, forsaken corpses, and frightened survivors.

Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook's mother and grandfather own a popular coffee house on High (Market) Street. Mattie's comfortable life is shattered by the epidemic, as her mother is felled and the girl and her grandfather must flee for their lives. Later, after much hardship and terror, they return to the deserted town to find their former cook, a freed slave, working with the African Free Society, an actual group who undertook to visit and assist the sick and saved many lives. As first frost arrives and the epidemic ends, Mattie's sufferings have changed her from a willful child to a capable young woman.

Assignment:

In a paragraph (4-6 sentences) each, please address two of the following questions about the novel:

1. Describe the living conditions in 1793 Philadelphia and compare them to how they are today.
2. What was Mattie's greatest challenge in the book? Describe the circumstances, how she managed it, and why you think it was the greatest challenge.
3. Describe two ways in which Mattie dramatically grows during the course of the book – what are the changes, how do they happen and why do they happen?

Write two total paragraphs! These paragraphs should be typed (double-spaced) or written neatly with skipped lines. They may be shared at any time during the summer to mfoley@greenestreetfriends.org. Otherwise they are due the first day back in September.

Second:

You will choose **one novel or work of non-fiction** in the genre of your preference. This book should be appropriate to your age, interest, and reading ability. You will provide evidence of your completion of the book by completing **one** of the projects below.

Project Ideas:

- Create an **advertisement** for a magazine that is meant to persuade somebody to read the book. You should include specific information about the text.
- Develop a **slideshow** that includes key information about plot, theme, setting and characters. Include pictures on the slideshow, as well.
- Write a **book review** that tells what the book is about, what you thought of it, and why you thought this.
- Draw a **comic strip** that highlights key scenes. You can do a panel per chapter, or you can focus on the climax of the story. Provide a **brief description** of what is contained in your comic strip.
- Write an **outline for a sequel** to the story. This should be an original piece, rather than based on an actual sequel that the author wrote.
- Create a **poster** with items and words that **symbolize** the theme or a major character. You should provide a brief description of why you chose the items and words on your poster.
- Write a **headline and newspaper article** about an event from the story. This should be detailed.
- Write an **imaginary interview** with one of the characters. Ask specific questions, and use your knowledge of the character development to inform the responses.
- *If you have another idea that would provide similar understandings about the books, please feel free to pursue it.*

The project will be graded on three items:

1. Your project should show your **understanding** of at least one story element (i.e. plot, characters, setting, theme). You should also include the title and author of your chosen book.
2. Your project should demonstrate **originality**. You should show creativity in the production of your project and the interpretation of the text.
3. Your project should show **attention to detail**. You should connect your work to your chosen book with references to specific details from the text.
4. You should submit your project on the **first day of school** with all of the components completed.

Be as creative as you like, but make sure that your project accurately represents elements of the book you choose to portray. This assignment can be shared with me at ekirchner@greenestreetfriends.org or brought on the first day of school.

Have fun with this!

Sincerely,
Erin & Marty