



Incoming MTMS 8th Graders

As a way to keep your school learning fresh, we want to suggest activities that will support your English Language Arts skills learned in 7th grade to prepare you for the fun that awaits you in 8th grade.

***These activities are not required and will not be collected by your ELA teacher.**

Continue Reading Literary Texts

- ✚ What is the theme or central idea of the text? How is it developed over the course of the text? What is an objective summary of the text?
- ✚ What textual evidence supports an analysis of what the text says? What inferences, conclusions, and/or generalizations can you draw?
- ✚ How do particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision?
- ✚ How do differences in the points of view of characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor?
- ✚ How do the text structures of two or more texts differ? How do they contribute to the meaning and style?
- ✚ What are some examples of literary terms and devices in the text? How do they shape meaning and tone?
- ✚ How does a modern work of fiction draw on themes, patterns of events, or character types? How is the material rendered new?
- ✚ What are some vocabulary words used in the text? How do their Context Clues shape the meaning?

Continue Reading Informational Texts

- ✚ What is the central idea of a text? How is it developed over the course of the text? What is an objective summary of the text?
- ✚ What textual evidence supports an analysis of what the text says? What inferences, conclusions, and/or generalizations can you draw?
- ✚ How do individuals, events, and ideas in a text connect?
- ✚ What is the author's point of view? How does that author acknowledge and respond to conflicting evidence or viewpoints?
- ✚ How does an author use specific sentences and paragraphs to develop and refine a concept?
- ✚ What are some vocabulary words used in the text? How do their Context Clues shape the meaning?
- ✚ What is the author's argument? What reasoning and claims are provided to support the argument?
- ✚ How do two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic? Where do they disagree?

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Continue Writing

- ✚ Argumentative Writing: Write an argument and support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- ✚ Informational / Explanatory Writing: Write an informative/explanatory text to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- ✚ Narrative Writing: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- ✚ Use verbals correctly (Gerunds, Participles, Infinitives, etc.)
- ✚ Rewrite sentences using Active Voice, where appropriate
- ✚ Incorporate Verb Moods correctly (Indicative, Imperative, Interrogative, Conditional, and Subjunctive)
- ✚ Use phrases and clauses in specific sentences, recognizing modifiers correctly
- ✚ Use sentence variety (Simple, Compound, Complex, Compound-Complex)
- ✚ Review Parts of Speech and use them correctly
- ✚ Avoid fragments and run-on sentences
- ✚ Correctly use commonly misused words (to, too, two, etc.)
- ✚ Use punctuation correctly (comma, ellipsis, dash, parentheses, dashes)

Our Advice:
Continue reading fiction
and nonfiction pieces that
interest you.

Continue writing for
different audiences.