

May 2017

Dear Incoming Eighth Grade Language Arts Student,

I am looking forward to a great 2017-18 school year. An important part of the language arts class for your eighth grade year will be reading, discussing, and interpreting literature to find connections with other books, movies, etc. along with identifying plot, conflicts, themes, figurative language, and descriptive word usage.

Summer is a great opportunity for you to build your reading, vocabulary, and writing skills. It is also a time to make sure you do not lose the literacy skills you gained throughout your seventh grade year. In order to maintain these skills, you will be required to read two books during the summer: a required book and a book of your choice from the list provided.

Here is your assignment:

1. Read *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and be prepared to take an exam on the novel when you return to school in August. The exam will include matching, multiple choice, vocabulary (I have attached the vocabulary sheets for each section of the novel) and short answer questions. In addition, be prepared to discuss this novel; it will be our first literature unit of the year.
2. The attached vocabulary pages are due on the first day of class in August.
3. The second part of your assignment involves reading a **book of your choice** from the following list. Be prepared to write a literary analysis (format will be provided during the first week of school) on the novel when you return to school in the fall.

Reading is important for a variety of reasons. The two novels you will read will expand your vocabulary, challenge your brain, influence your writing skills, and entertain you over the summer. Reading is important because words – spoken and written – are the building blocks of life.

If you are taking a driving trip, lounging by the pool, or flying on a plane, those are excellent times to have a book handy for your reading pleasure. Enjoy and have a good summer! I look forward to a great year of reading and writing. If you have any questions or comments over the summer regarding your assigned reading, please feel free to send me an email at teresakolkebeck@skaggscatholiccenter.org

Mrs. Kolkebeck

"You'll never feel lonely if you've got a book - they're like old friends."

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – by Arthur Conan Doyle

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – by Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – by Mark Twain

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland – by Lewis Carroll

Anne of Green Gables – by Lucy Montgomery

Around the World in 80 Days – by Jules Verne

Black Beauty – by Ann Sewell

Bridge to Terabithia – by Katherine Paterson

Bud, Not Buddy – by Christopher Paul Curtis

Call It Courage – by Armstrong Sperry

The Chosen – by Chaim Potok

A Christmas Carol – by Charles Dickens

The Chronicles of Narnia – by C.S. Lewis

The Count of Monte Cristo – by Alexander Dumas

David Copperfield – by Charles Dickens

The Chocolate Wars – by Robert Cormier

A Day No Pigs Would Die – by Robert Newton Peck

Diary of a Young Girl – by Anne Frank

Dragonwings – by Laurence Yep

Enchantress from the Stars – Sylvia Louise Engdahl

Fahrenheit 451 – by Ray Bradbury

Frankenstein – by Mary Shelley

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone – by J.K. Rowling

Heidi – by Johanna Spyri

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – by Douglas Adams

Holes – by Louis Sachar

Homecoming – by Cynthia Voigt

The House on Mango Street – by Sandra Cisneros

The Hunchback of Notre Dame – by Victor Hugo

The Invisible Man – by H.G. Wells

Island of the Blue Dolphins – by Scott O’Dell

Jane Eyre – by Charlotte Bronte

Jacob I Have Loved – by Katherine Paterson

Journey to the Center of the Earth – by Jules Verne

Journey to Topaz – by Yoshiko Uchida
The Last of the Mohicans – by James Fenimore Cooper
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – by Washington Irving
Life on the Mississippi – by Mark Twain
Little Women – by Louisa May Alcott
Lost Horizon – by James Hilton
Mama's Bank Account – by Kathryn Forbes
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood – by Howard Pyle
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – by Frederick Douglass
Oliver Twist – by Charles Dickens
Peter Pan – by J.M. Barrie
The Piano Lesson – by August Wilson
Pippi Longstocking – by Astrid Lindgren
Pudd'nhead Willson – by Mark Twain
The Rainbow People – by Laurence Yep
The Red Pony – by John Steinbeck
Rip Van Winkle – by Washington Irving
Robinson Crusoe – by Daniel Defoe
The Samurai's Tale – by Erik C. Haugaard
The Secret Garden – by Frances Hodgson Burnett
A Separate Peace – by John Knowles
Shane – by Jack Schaefer
Story of My Life – by Helen Keller
The Tale of Desperaux – by Kate DiCamillo
Tales from the Arabian Nights – by Andrew Lang
The Thurber Carnival – by James Thurber
The Time Machine – by H.G. Wells
Treasure Island – by Robert Louis Stevenson
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – by Betty Smith
Tuck Everlasting – by Natalie Babbitt
20,000 Leagues Under The Sea – by Jules Verne
The Upstairs Room – by Johanna Reiss
The Voyages of Dr. Doolittle – by Hugh Lofting
War of the Worlds – by H.G. Wells
The Westing Game – by Ellen Raskin

Where the Red Fern Grows – by Wilson Rawls

The White Mountains – John Christopher

Wind in the Willows – by Kenneth Grahame

A Wizard of Earthsea – by Ursula K. LeGuin

Wizard of Oz – by L. Frank Baum

A Wrinkle in Time – by Madeleine L'Engle

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section I)

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues. Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. But Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel dog. The whole realm was his.

2. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king-

3. In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, grappled him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back.

4. ...his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely.

5. They only laughed and poked sticks at him, which he promptly assailed with his teeth.

6. In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with growls, and they had retaliated by teasing him.

7. The club was a revelation. It was his introduction to the reign of primitive law.

8. Perrault was a French-Canadian, and swarthy, but Francois was a French-Canadian half breed, and twice as swarthy.

Part II: Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

- _____ 1. realm
- _____ 2. imperiously
- _____ 3. deft
- _____ 4. futilely
- _____ 5. assailed
- _____ 6. retaliated
- _____ 7. revelation
- _____ 8. swarthy

- A. attacked, assaulted
- B. dark complexion
- C. to take revenge, reprisal
- D. astonishing disclosure
- E. a region
- F. apt, clever
- G. domineering, arrogant
- H. serving no useful purpose

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section II-IV)

Parts I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial.

2. It is true, it was a vicarious experience, else he would not have lived to profit by it.

3. Billie wagged his tail appeasingly, turned to run when he saw that appeasement was of no avail.

4. The day had been long and arduous, and he slept soundly and comfortably.

5. His most conspicuous trait was an ability to scent the wind and forecast it ... in advance.

6. Its wild water defied the frost.

7. Nothing daunted him. It was because nothing daunted him that he had been chosen for government courier.

8. With the covert mutiny of Buck, a general insubordination sprang up and increased.

9. Then three or four Western bad men aspired to clean out the town.

10. With the last remnant of his strength he managed to stagger along behind till the train made another stop.

Part II: Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

_____ 1. primordial

_____ 2. vicarious

_____ 3. appease

_____ 4. arduous

_____ 5. conspicuous

_____ 6. defied

_____ 7. daunted

_____ 8. covert

_____ 9. aspired

_____ 10. remnant

A. difficult, laborious

B. a scrap, fragment, remaining

C. to aim at high things

D. original, earliest formed

E. secret, private

F. challenged, provoked to combat

G. experienced through someone else

H. clearly in view, distinguishable

I. to pacify, to tranquilize

J. discouraged, intimidated

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section V-VI)

Parts I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. It advertised his callowness - a callowness sheer and unutterable.

2. Buck watched them apprehensively as they proceeded to take down the tent.

3. Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

4. Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

5. The outfit, though cut in half, was still a formidable bulk.

6. The outside dogs, whose digestion had not been trained by chronic famine to make the most of little, had voracious appetites.

7. Mercedes, who disburdened herself of copious opinions upon that topic.

8. She wept and importuned Heaven with a recital of their brutality.

Part II: Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. _____ callowness | A. difficult to deal with |
| 2. _____ apprehensively | B. ravenous |
| 3. _____ imploringly | C. aversion, dislike, reluctance |
| 4. _____ repugnance | D. beseech, pray for earnestly |
| 5. _____ formidable | E. to urge repeatedly |
| 6. _____ voracious | F. fearfully, suspiciously |
| 7. _____ copious | G. immature, unsophisticated |
| 8. _____ importuned | H. abundant |

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section VII)

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. His transient masters since he had come into the Northland had bred in him a fear that no master could be permanent.

2. A "miner's meeting" called on the spot, decided that the dog had sufficient provocation and Buck was discharged.

3. ...being careful that it should neither strangle him nor impede his swimming...

4. Buck performed another exploit not so heroic, perhaps, but one that put his name many notches higher on the totem-pole of Alaskan fame.

5. Sometimes he pursued the call into the forest, looking for it as though it were a tangible thing.

6. Even so, it was a hard fight, and it aroused the last latent remnants of Buck's ferocity.

Part II: Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

1. _____ transient
2. _____ provocation
3. _____ impede
4. _____ exploit
5. _____ tangible
6. _____ latent

- A. heroic act, deed of renown
- B. something that can be touched, actual
- C. under the surface, hidden
- D. fleeting, momentary
- E. something that stimulates anger
- F. to hamper, to obstruct

