

May 2017

Dear Literature and Composition Student,

Congratulations on being selected to be a student in next year's eighth grade Literature and Composition class. It is both an honor and a responsibility to be in this class. It will be a challenging class, but also a stimulating one, marked by classroom discussion of great literature, essay writing, expansion of your vocabulary, and daily work to improve your grammar and writing skills.

Your summer reading assignment will show me that you have the necessary skills and motivation to be successful in Literature and Composition as a eighth grader during the 2017-2018 school year. Here is your assignment:

1. Read *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and be prepared to take an exam on the book when you return to school in August. In addition, be prepared to discuss this novel; it will be our first literature unit of the year.
2. The exam will include matching, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. In addition, there will be a vocabulary section – *attached you will find the vocabulary words for each section of the novel*. In order to successfully complete the essay portion of the test, you will need to fully understand, identify, and appreciate the main idea (theme) of the novel as well as the author's tone and attitude.
3. The attached vocabulary pages are due on the first day of class in August.
4. The second part of your summer assignment involves reading a classic and being 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 August. Here is the list of classics from which to choose your second novel:
 - *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
 - *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
 - *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel DeFoe
 - *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 - *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
 - *The Count of Monte Christo* by Alexander Dumas
 - *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
 - *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
 - *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea* by Jules Verne
 - *Emma* by Jane Austin
 - *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Classic literature never goes out of style. These two assignments involving the classics will expand your vocabulary, challenge your brain, influence your writing skills, and entertain you over the summer.

Enjoy! 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 e-mail me.

Mrs. Kolkebeck
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"There is no surer foundation for a beautiful friendship than a mutual taste in literature."— P.G. Wodehouse

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)

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. 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
2. _____ apprehensively
3. _____ imploringly
4. _____ repugnance
5. _____ formidable
6. _____ voracious
7. _____ copious
8. _____ importuned

- A. difficult to deal with
- B. ravenous
- C. aversion, dislike, reluctance
- D. beseech, pray for earnestly
- E. to urge repeatedly
- F. fearfully, suspiciously
- G. immature, unsophisticated
- 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

