

Language Arts 7 – Outline

Mr. Bell

What an amazing gift – the gift of language! What would life be like without the ability to express ourselves through the use of words – written and oral? Our aim should be to use our language well – correctly and effectively – to communicate and understand ideas. Throughout the year, we will be exposed to excellent examples of language being used in a variety of genre and for a variety of purposes. Ample opportunity will also be provided for us to develop reading, oral communication and writing skills through a wide range of activities.

Topics to be covered

- *Grammar – parts of speech, punctuation, writing conventions
- *Poetry – examining published works and creating original poetry
- *Reading response journal
- *Short story – elements and creating an original story
- *Essay – lead, supporting details, conclusion, etc.
- *Memoirs
- *Letters
- *Vocabulary Development
- *Rough Drafts and Revision, Peer Editing
- *Speech Preparation and Presentation
- *Current Events Discussions and Responses
- *Grade Wide Reading Comprehension Tests

Evaluation

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| *Assignments and Projects | 75% |
| *Tests and Quizzes | 25% |

Reading Response Journal

A Reading Response Journal is a duo tang you write in to collect your thoughts and reflections about the book(s) you are reading.

It is **NOT** a book review.

Reflections of a book are thoughts that occur to you while reading the book, or after. They can be 'wonderings' about the author, the author's choices in the creating the story, or the author's craft: his/her writing style and structure. You can talk about what you liked and why or what you didn't like and why not. You can finish the story, predict how things will end or change, you can explain why you think a character or situation is the way it is and why...all based on ideas coming from your reading.

I would like 2 or 3 good paragraphs written in an open letter to me. Paragraph one should include the name of the book and author, what you've read and what you are responding to in the book. Paragraph two should expand on your thoughts about the aspect mentioned in paragraph one. If you can use a quote and/or page reference to support your reflection, that will be **AWESOME!** Paragraph three is usually a closure in commenting on the author's writing style or craft.

Paragraph One:

Dear Mr. Bell

Mon. Sept. 15/08

I am really upset about a part of the book, Raiders from the Sea, by Lois Walfrid Johnson. I have just finished chapter three and everyone seems to predict that Brianna will be taken as a slave for the Vikings.

☺name of the book, what I've read and what I am **responding** to in the book.

Paragraph Two:

I can't help wondering if it was common for the Vikings to take women as slaves. I don't know what I would do if they were taking me. It seems so strange that if everyone knows that the Vikings would come and take her, she didn't go with her Dad. ESPECIALLY since they had already lost their oldest daughter to the Vikings. It seems like the parents just accept that she will be gone, especially on page (43) when her father says, "Brianna, if a test comes, remember how much we love you. And know you have the courage to win."

☺expanded on my thoughts about one aspect of my book

Paragraph Three:

I think the author describes Brianna really well and it makes us more upset at the thought of her being kidnapped.

Sincerely,
Johnny Smithe

☺ a comment about the author's style or craft

Possibilities for Reflections:

☺ what has grabbed your attention and pulled you into the story and how it did it and why

☺ what has caused you to shudder, or stop reading or cry and why

☺ what you think will happen and why

☺ what you feel about a character and why

☺ your feelings about the situations in the book and why

☺ what caused you to stop and think, and tell me what you are thinking

☺ comment on what you would do in a certain situation in the book and why

☺ suggest who you would identify with in the book and why

☺ explain when you have been through a similar situation and how you reacted the same or different as the characters

☺ an interesting way the author has of writing or describing and what effect it has on you the reader

☺ what you think the author has done really well and why

☺ at the end of a book you could suggest how you would change the ending, or what you would write as a sequel or what you thought the author did really, really well or poorly and why

Just share with me your thoughts, and feelings and what you notice as you go through your reading.

Your day for handing in reading response journal is _____