**Homework Week January 3-5, 2017**

**Why give homework?**

Homework will be given in the second semester for all students in Mrs. Kelly’s E/LA class. Homework is a way for students to maintain, practice, and increase proficiency on materials learned in class. Homework is also a way for students to strengthen their academic skills in Reading, Grammar, Spelling and Writing which in turn will assist them in exhibiting proficiency on MAP E/LA and End of Year tests as well as classroom assessments. Finally, one extremely motivating reason for giving homework is to allow students to build their stamina and perseverance for becoming independent learners.

**When will homework be given?**

Students will have homework on a weekly basis. This is subject to change and includes holidays. Homework will be given on Friday’s and will need to be returned on the following Friday. This time period allows for students to have an opportunity to complete homework on weekends. **Please see the calendar tab for homework due dates.**

**~~~ Students also have Team Teach time which is a time for them to complete assigned work during the school day. If this time is used wisely all homework can be completed during school hours.**

**What will be given for homework?**

Students will be responsible for the following homework:

1. **Students will complete 2 Dialectical Journal Entries (2 Paragraphs), using the technology tool Edmodo, per week based upon their literature circle text.**
2. **2.5 hours of Moby Max a week**
3. **6 week Book Completion Project**

**Please see specifics below for all assignments.**

1. **Dialectical Journal Entries Guidelines**A dialectical journal is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You should write down passages that strike you and reflect in response to the text. This process will help you understand the themes of the book (we will be working with the theme for the next 5 to 6 weeks) and ensure that you make your own meaning out of the text. The goal is not to summarize the plot but rather to reflect on the main ideas and provide your own commentary and thoughts about what you are reading. **Edmodo**

We will use Edmodo as a tool for communicating about our reading. For each Edmodo assignment, you need to write down a passage and reflect on its content in a paragraph.

Below is a list of questions that will help guide your reflections.

**When should you write passages down?  
● Details that seem important to you  
● A striking or memorable passage related to the themes of the text  
● You learn something significant about a character  
● You agree or disagree with something a character says or does  
● You find an interesting or significant quotation  
● You notice something important or relevant about the writer’s style  
● You notice effective use of literary devices  
● You notice evidence of foreshadowing  
● You connect with the text on a personal level  
  
How should you reflect?  
● Raise questions about the values implied in the text  
● Give your personal reactions to the passage, the characters, and/or the situation  
● Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character  
● Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences  
● Compare the text to other characters or novels  
● Write about how it makes you think or feel  
● Argue with or speak to the characters or author  
● Make connections to any themes that are revealed to you  
● Make connections among passages or sections of the work  
● Make predictions about characters’ futures**

**Instructions For Completing Each Entry**  
**Students will need to post:  
1) For each Edmodo assignment you will need to  
\* Type up one complete paragraph per journal entry.   
\* Post 2 journal entries a week.   
  
2) When writing your Edmodo journal entry you will need to:  
\* Answer at least one question from the ones provided below.  
\* Select at least one quote to support your answer.**

**When should you write passages down?  
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● You notice something important or relevant about the writer’s style  
● You notice effective use of literary devices  
● You notice evidence of foreshadowing  
● You connect with the text on a personal level**

**How should you reflect?  
● Raise questions about the values implied in the text  
● Give your personal reactions to the passage, the characters, and/or the situation  
● Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character  
● Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences  
● Compare the text to other characters or novels  
● Write about how it makes you think or feel  
● Argue with or speak to the characters or author  
● Make connections to any themes that are revealed to you  
● Make connections among passages or sections of the work  
● Make predictions about characters’ futures**

**How will homework be graded?**

I do understand that many students have extracurricular activities planned after school hours. However, I know that homework will increase opportunities for learning. Students will not be graded on the content of their practice. Instead, students will be given two sets of grades. One set will be for time spend **(2.5 hours a week) practicing the material assigned in Reading/E/LA in Moby Max**. The second set will be for completion of **2 Dialectical Journal entries in Edmodo** (the commentary on the journal entries will be read but particular details will not be graded only that the assignment has been completed in 2 paragraphs including).

**Grades for Moby Max (2.5 hours a week)**

* Full amount of time completed= A/100%
* Partial amount of time completed= C/70%
* No amount of time completed= F/60%

**2 Dialectical Journal entries in Edmodo**

* 2 Dialectical Journal Entries Completed in a minimum of 2 paragraphs= A/100%
* 1 Dialectical Journal Entry Completed in a minimum of 1 paragraph= C/70%
* No Dialectical Journal Entries Completed= F/60%

**Helpful Hints:**

It may be best to take notes every now and again while you are reading to make sure you don’t forget any important thoughts that you have. It is also a good idea to look over your notes. Make sure that you write down the page numbers if it helps clarify what specific part of the story you are referring to in your notes. You may paraphrase or directly quote your author(s).

**Books for Homework**

Students will be placed in 4 person literature circle groups during class time. Students will be given 4 copies of one text (this includes books, articles, short stories and the like) to be shared with their 4 person literature circle. The teacher will give out these text and this is the text that will be used to complete the homework of two journal entries a week. If a student has a suggestion for a particular text they are permitted to read that text but they must be able to provide 4 copies for their group members.

1. **2.5 hours of Moby Max a week**

Students have already logged in and should have already completed 2.5 hours for their homework the week before Christmas. Therefore, students should know how to log into and use Moby Max. Moby Max is set up so that students work towards proficiency on tasks that have been differentiated and tailored for specific student learning. Students should ask Mrs. Kelly for assistance. Students have a team teach time each day for 60 minutes and this is an opportune time for them to complete this homework.

**3. 6 week Book Completion Project**

All students have already completed this project previously. They will need to have read a book in its entirety, obtain a book completion form to fill out and turn in. Students will be responsible for one book every 6 weeks. This book must be at or above their Lexile Level.