7th Graders and Parents!

This is the fourth (I caught this too late for the hard copy!) packet of work going out. I am going to be sending paper copies of everything, and also putting the Word documents on my e-mail. I think that as we continue, the whole system seems to become harder to keep track of. Students, please use whatever works for you---the packet of work can be returned on Tuesday, or you can return through e-mail electronically.

A couple of other ideas: for the online book, I hope you realize that it is there for not only being able to read from, but you can also listen to the stories. For the homework, I am not looking for long, rambling answers. Give me the answer, but keep it short, please. I just really want to know what your thoughts are, and did you understand (minus discussion that is always helpful in bringing out other ideas) what you read. When it comes to your test essays, I am looking for you to learn to use a quote to back up your opinion. But more important than that is that you have an opinion and you can share that with me through writing. Yes, I put deadlines on the work, but just send it to me when you have it done. I am not worried about late work; I’m worried that you won’t get it turned in at all---there are no late points through this flex learning.

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Please read “Letters to the Editor” on pages 456-458. The focus is on stereotype and bias. Please read the quotes on page 456, “People who drive sports cars are reckless. All politicians are dishonest. Football players aren’t good at schoolwork.” Each of these sentences expresses an opinion but uses stereotyping. Stereotype is “unfair, fixed ideas about groups of people.” In the first sentence, which group of people are being talked about? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Just for the sake of argument, my car is considered a sportscar for insurance purposes. I am not reckless, but I am thrown into this opinion. In the second sentence, which group of people is being talked about? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ If any of you have family members who serve in positions on elected boards, I hope you disagree with this statement. In the third sentence, which group of people is being talked about?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have taught some outstanding academic students who were on the football team---made the academic state team. Stereotype does not make room for any individuality—if you are one of these then you are this mentality. Stereotypes can be hurtful and sometimes used to persuade. For our reading here, you will notice that the groups are parents, teachers, basketball teams, etc. Bias is the attitudes or beliefs which shape a person’s opinions regardless of facts. Bias can be especially hard to find, especially if you agree with the opinion! Bias is evident in all of us when it comes to our favorite sports teams, especially when the team statistics don’t make my team the best! Bias requires that you read the information without agreeing or disagreeing first; just read for the word choice. In today’s society, stereotypes are short hops, skips, and jumps away from racism, and bias is a next-door neighbor to prejudice. We have to be very careful. One of the letters states that the *US Constitution* protects our right to say what we want—but we also have libel and slander laws that limit what we can say and write.

Read the different letters and then complete the Collection 4 graphic organizer. This includes all three readings. I have put an two examples on the GO.

Friday, April 3, 2020

Please complete the Vocabulary Development for “Debate on Bullying” and “Letters to the Editor”

Monday, April 6, 2020

Please complete the Informational Text and Vocabulary Questions over all three readings. These are the same questions that are at the end of each reading---I just put them on paper. Use your books for look for the correct answer if you are unsure.

These three assignments come back in the folder on Tuesday, April 6, 2020. Again, however you choose to send them back to me is fine.

Missing you kids like crazy!