**7th Grade ELA Basics for Parents**

 **Accelerated Reader**

<https://hosted60.renlearn.com/741920/>

Students should be reading books for AR points. The books are freely chosen by the students, but they should be appropriate for the students’ reading levels. They should also fit with the selected genre for the current marking period. The point is to practice reading texts that challenge the students so that they continue to grow in their abilities.

In 7th grade, students should try to achieve at least 18 points. Points can be found on the AR website or at arbookfind.com. These points can be reached by reading one or multiple books, all depending on how many points each book is worth.

*How can I help my child succeed with this assignment?*

Encourage your child to read daily and have discussions with him/her about what he/she is reading. Ask to see what books your child has been reading and to see his/her AR dashboard to look at how many points are listed. Also, make sure he/she is thoroughly completing weekly reading logs and is utilizing reading strategies.

**Reading Strategies (Annotations/ “Sticky Notes”)**

In order to fully comprehend a book, students need to actually engage with the text! What this means is that students need to ask questions, make predictions, think about reactions, make connections, or state opinions about the words that they are processing. If students are struggling to read and comprehend what they read, they likely are not interacting with the text or are reading a book too challenging for them. One strategy to do a self-check of comprehension is through making annotations on the text. Of course, your child likely can’t write in the margins of the books that they read, but they can absolutely use sticky notes! Sticky notes are a great tool for students to record their textual interactions. Periodically, students should stop, reflect on their reading, and record one of the aforementioned engagement activities on a sticky note. Also, if students are recording short summaries on the sticky notes along with these other activities, students are able to look back and remember what they were reading when they resume the novel after a break.

*How can I help my child succeed with this task?*

Ask to see what your child is reading, and have him/her show you their sticky note annotations. Ask questions about the notes, and have your child explain their thinking. Challenge them to make notes on multiple activities, not just predictions, for example. Try to make sure they are making at least one note per page for small pages, but encourage them to do more!

**Book Reports**

Students will be assigned one book report/project each marking period. The book they select must be from the genre that we are currently using for AR. Students are allowed to use the book they are using for the report/project for AR.

*How can I help my child with their book report?*

Check with your student to see when the assignment is due. The due date will be announced at the start of every marking period when the assignment is given out. The same reading strategies for AR will help with this task--be sure that they are reading each day and not waiting until the last minute! There will often be a computer component to the book report/project such as typing/printing, PowerPoint, etc. Please encourage your child to seek help from their ELA teacher or the school librarian during Pd 11 if they are struggling.

**Homework**

There will be regular homework assignments in 7th ELA--you can access the “7th grade Google homework calendar” from the website of any 7th grade core subject teacher. Please check this daily to keep track of upcoming due dates and tests/quizzes. Homework for all subjects is posted here, so please remind your student to use this calendar to help plan and manage their time.

**Reading Logs**

Every week, students will be given a reading log to complete for their AR book. These logs will be different every week and extra copies are always available in the ELA classrooms. Students will be given “AR time” in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays to work on this, but it is expected that students work on their reading logs outside of class as well in order to complete the assignment thoroughly. It is recommended that students read for a minimum of 20 minutes per day to achieve a total of 100 minutes per week. Logs must be signed by an adult that was present during the time that the student was reading. ALL information must be completed on the log accurately to receive full credit. The logs will be worth 10pts each and will be categorized under “AR” in Sapphire.

*How can I help my child with their reading log?*

Please sign their reading logs for the time that they spend reading for AR at home. Remind them to complete all of the required information on the front of the log and to also thoroughly complete the 5 questions on the back. If the questions asks for textual evidence, students should be sure to include a “quote/citation” directly from the text as evidence to support their answer. They should also explain their answer in detail (a short 1 sentence answer will not be enough to adequately respond to the question).

**Study Island**

<http://www.studyisland.com/>

Students will be given regular assignments in the Study Island program for ELA. Many of their tests/quizzes will be given through the program as well. Students must earn a ribbon in the assigned categories in order to obtain full credit. The blue ribbon means that the student passed with a 70% or higher on the first try. The white ribbon means that they passed it in a subsequent try (either will count for credit).

*How can I help my child in this program?*

 Be sure that your child is reading through the “lesson” section before completing their “practice” session in order to help them understand the material and in turn pass the section. When students have an upcoming test/quiz in the program, please remind them to complete practice sessions as much as possible to familiarize themselves with potential assessment questions and to get used to the types of questions that they will encounter. Ask your child to show you their dashboard (main screen) to see what they have to work on. You can also go into “My Classes” to see every single assignment for each class. To access a “practice session” for a category that your child wishes to study, go to “PA Programs”...”ELA 7”...and select the topic from the comprehensive list. Click on “Practice” to generate a brand new set of questions in that category to help prepare for the assessment.