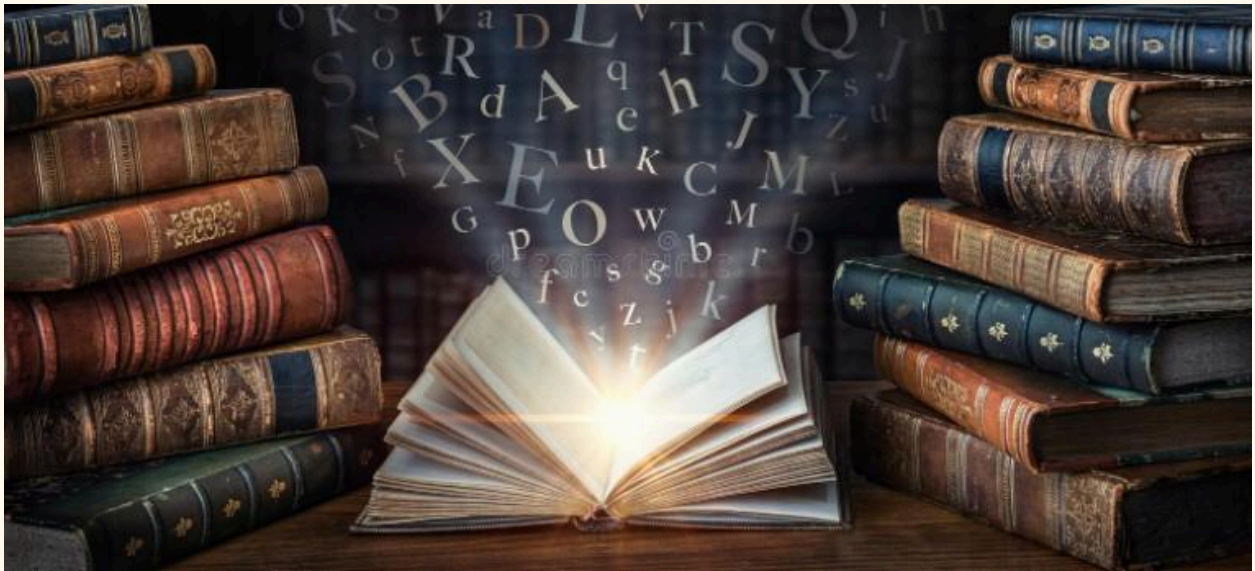


WELCOME TO 7TH GRADE ENGLISH

Well... almost.



But First: Summer!

Ah, summer... The season of sunshine, heat, and relaxation! Summer is a time for us to take a deep breath and rest after a year full of academic rigor and stress. It's also time for summer reading! This year, your summer reading continues with the penultimate story in the Chronicles of Narnia. We join a transformed Eustace, his classmate Jill Pole, and the Marshwiggle Puddleglum as they search for Caspian's son Rilian, the heir to the Narnian throne.

On top of reading for class, you should also read books of your choosing! Reading is FUN, and I want you to embrace the books that give you joy during your break. Attached is a summer reading challenge BINGO sheet. After you read *The Silver Chair*, you already have one BINGO space filled! How many more can you read before summer's end?

In the following sections, you will find expectations for your time spent diving into literature this summer.

***The Silver Chair* by C.S. Lewis**

“There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it.” – *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, C.S. Lewis

Compare this introduction to the character of Eustace in the book you have read this past year to his introduction in *The Silver Chair*: “His name unfortunately was Eustace Scrubb, but he wasn’t a bad sort.” This example of brilliant allusion is just a sampling of the literary treat that is *The Silver Chair*.

As you read, do so for enjoyment – appreciate the moments like the previous example that illustrate the excellence of Lewis’ character-building. There will be no chapter quizzes after you read. Yep, you read that right! Instead, I want you to pause and practice a few different techniques, called retrieval practice, that will help you remember the content of what you spend time reading.

Retrieval Practice

Instead of weekly chapter quizzes, I encourage you to challenge yourself by pausing before and after a chapter to assess what you have learned. Data supports the idea that the process of “stretching your brain” by recalling information frequently helps one to remember more of what one is learning. Listed below are a couple of strategies that will benefit you as you read. Important: Don’t use your books to help you during these exercises! You are stretching your brain, not the book. It’s okay if it takes you a long time. That’s a good thing! Learning takes time.

1. Brain Dump

My favorite type of retrieval practice! Write down everything you know about the topic. For example, before reading *The Silver Chair*, write down everything you know already about The Chronicles of Narnia. After a chapter, write down everything you know about that chapter, etc.

2. Two Things

What are two things you learned in the chapter?

What to Expect In The Fall

In the first few days of school, you will be given two assignments to ensure you have read the required material. The first will be an in-class writing assignment, which will be another way for you to “retrieve” what you read. Second, I will provide a list of eight projects from which you will choose one to complete at home and turn in at a later date.

Happy Reading!

Enjoy time with family and friends this summer! I look forward to hearing all about your various adventures this fall. I do not have a school e-mail address yet, but please feel free to contact me at hanna.m.lomeli@gmail.com if you have any questions.