

BMS Language Arts 7

weekly lesson: June 1st-June 5th

Hello 7th grade students and families! CONGRATULATIONS!! We have made it to the final packet! This week we are going to complete an activity that is a tradition for the last days of my class each year. I think it is essential at the end of every school year to stop and reflect and think about the future. This may be even more important this year. For this reason, we end with an optional, but STRONGLY encouraged, letter writing activity. See the details of the assignment later in this document. If you have any questions or would like more skill building activities, please contact me during my office hours. Enjoy!

Answers from Last Week's Exercise:

Check your work! How did you do?

There was a giant, delicious **dinner** at this wedding, yet I'm still going to bed hungry. This is completely **unacceptable**! If I had to guess, I would say it is a result of **too** much dancing.

Congratulations, John and Mindy! **It was the best night ever!**

giant, delicious: Commas are used to separate two adjectives beside each other.

dinner: Dinner was misspelled.

wedding, yet: A comma is used to separate two sentences with a conjunction (yet).

unacceptable: Unacceptable was misspelled.

guess, I: Commas separate introductory elements from the rest of the sentence.

too: *Too* is a synonym for also or means an excess of something. *To* is a preposition.

Congratulations, John and Mindy: Congratulations was misspelled. A comma is added as it is a direct address. The names should also be capitalized.

It was the best night ever: Individual words can not be complete sentences.

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Office Hours:

(I will be online to answer any questions!)

Mrs. Hatcher:

Mon - Fri 12-2

Email: madalynh@banks.k12.or.us

I can also do video chats with students if needed.

Online Games/Apps/Resources:

1. <https://www.dictionary.com/>
2. <https://pbskids.org/games/vocabulary/>
3. <https://justbuypassay.com/blog/persuasive-essay-topics>

ELA 7 Traditional Final Project

At the end of every school year, I offer students a unique opportunity to reflect on their year and look forward to the future. There are two parts to the project. The first I strongly encourage students to complete. If they don't, they will inevitably feel disappointment in the future for not having attempted it. I ask students to "write a letter to the graduate" - write a letter to their future self. See the assignments for ideas on what students could write about but this assignment is truly for them. No one else will read it (not even me) until you open it at your graduation. This means you can write anything you want. I always caution students to write something meaningful to them - it is disappointing to open a letter and just read the word "hi". But it can really be as simple or as complex as they want.

I did this when I was in school and it was a really special experience to read my own words from my past after having grown and matured.

When students are done, they should put their letter in an envelope and address it to their current address (or the address of someone you trust that will most likely not be moving in 5 years (like a grandparent)). Usually I then collect the letters and put them in a safe place until students graduate. At that point, ideally, I will actually hand the letter to each student on graduation day in 5 years! The address is only in case a student transfers schools or something. I will do my best to get each letter back to the student when they graduate.

This year, You can turn the letters in at the school on June 8th and I will keep them as I usually do, OR, if you are more comfortable or it works better, I would suggest a parent hold onto the letter, unread, until graduation.

Again, This activity is totally optional! However, I guarantee that if all your friends get a letter on graduation day and you do not, you will be really disappointed with yourself. This is supposed to be a fun experience and I hope you take advantage of it!

The second part of the project is for the present. Again, this is optional, but strongly encouraged. I ask students to think about all the adults in their life who helped them this year, parents, coaches, teachers, etc. and consider writing a letter or making a card to say thank you for their help and support. Showing gratitude is a great way to end the year for students and the adults who love them.

Students can give these letters/cards directly to those people or (if they are a school employee) you can turn them in on June 8th and we will get them to the right person.

Final Note: Even though this second semester was really untraditional, I enjoyed getting to know you all and hope to see you all next year! Over the summer, some things you could do to help your skills is to keep reading (anything!) and maybe keep a journal - in these odd times, a journal could be a great way to process your experience and keep a record to look back on! Have an amazing summer!!

Letter to the Graduate

Today, on one of the last days of your 7th grade year, I want you to take some time to think about your future. Where will you be in 5 years? Most of you will be preparing to walk across the stage at graduation, but what then? Take a moment to ponder these questions:

1. What do you think high school will be like?
2. What activities do you think you will be a part of?
3. Do you think you will still have the same friends in 5 years?
4. What will you be feeling as you prepare for high school graduation?
5. What do you hope that you will be doing after graduation? College, trade school, working, travel?
6. What are some current academic and life goals that you have? How many do you think you will accomplish in the next 5 years?

Having reflected on these questions, I want you to write a letter to yourself, to be opened in 5 years. I will hold onto these and send them to you in the mail when you graduate.

Write whatever you want in your letter, whatever you think you will want to see from yourself. This can be really meaningful for you to receive when you graduate, so please take it seriously and do the best you can. Some ideas for what to write:

1. A prediction about who you will be and where you will be going
2. A list of goals you hope to achieve by the time you graduate
3. A reflection on your current school year
4. A letter of encouragement
5. A drawing
6. Any other words of wisdom or hope.

No one will see what you wrote until you are 18 so write whatever you want (I just urge you to make it something meaningful for you!) When you are finished, I want you to take an envelope and seal the letter inside. Then write your name and address on the front as shown.

Gratitude Letter Project

At the end of every school year it is a good idea to think about all those who helped you throughout the year and show some gratitude. I want you to write a letter, make a card, or draw a picture for anyone in your life that you want to say thank you to.

Ideas for who to thank:

- Your parents
- Coaches
- Teachers
- Neighbors
- Friend's parents
- Friends
- Siblings
- Teammates
- Sponsors
- Custodians
- School Secretary
- Principal or counselor
- Cafeteria workers
- Teacher's aids
- Postal carrier
- Doctor/Dentist

Know that anyone who receives a note from you will cherish the thought you put into it so, focus on handwriting and spelling, be thoughtful and creative, but most of all, be honest and sincere about your gratitude. Make as many as you want and then hand them out to their recipients at your next opportunity.