

6th Grade Pre-Advanced Placement Summer Project Liberty Middle School

Welcome to the 6th Grade Pre-AP Social Studies and Language Arts at Liberty Middle School!

As a member of the Pre-AP class you are required to complete a **summer project that is due on the first day of class in September**. This project will introduce you to what we will be studying throughout the year in both History and Language Arts. **You will read *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Coatsworth**. This short novel is available at the public library, local bookstores and via the internet through Amazon.com. The project should be organized in a three prong folder or thin, three-ring binder to be turned in. **We will be using the Summer Project as a basis for our class work from the very first day so late work will be reduced in grade by 50% and will not be accepted for credit after the fourth day of school.**

Pre-AP Summer Project Criteria

All District Middle School Pre-AP teachers met to create common criteria with which to create equitable summer projects. We shared projects and created the following criteria so that each teacher would be able to tailor their individual assignment to their unique classroom needs while simultaneously creating projects with similar workloads. Each project was discussed and designed to:

- Provide for equitable workloads across grade levels at both middle schools
- Align to classroom curriculum
- Allow for student choice/creativity
- Build upon outgoing grade-level skills
- Foreshadow Pre-AP strategies taught in classroom
- Be meaningful to students and to teachers
- Link to state EALRS/GLES in Writing, Reading, and Social Studies
- Prepares students for high school Pre-AP and AP programs

Part 1 Essay

Our Social Studies class will be studying Ancient World History: The Stone Age, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Ancient Greece. We will compare and contrast similarities and differences between ancient civilizations and our own using seven characteristics of civilizations to guide us. The seven characteristics are: Stable Food Supply, Government, Social Structure (class), Religion, Arts, Technology and Writing. As you read the short novel consider the seven characteristics and how they help deepen your understanding of the book and the cultures that it describes.

Choose ONE of the following prompts and write a 1.5 to 2 page multiple paragraph essay with an introduction and a conclusion.

1. Using the seven characteristics of civilization as a guide, compare the similarities and differences between the culture of the Artist's Japan with that of the modern United States. Use two examples from the text.
2. How does the author use each of the poems at the beginning of each chapter to move the story forward? Describe the author's purpose for including the poems. Use two examples from the text.
3. Compare the plot and theme of the novel to the short tales or parables of the Buddha told within the story. How are the stories similar? How are they different? Use two examples from the text.

Part 2 Poetry Writing and Art: cinquain and haiku

Our first major project of the year will incorporate both artwork and poetry. We will also be using artwork throughout the year in projects for both History and Language Arts.

For each of the following characters: The Artist, The Housekeeper, and Good Fortune:

- **Write a cinquain** describing each character following this format (3 total).
 - A cinquain has five lines.
 - Line 1 is the character's name
 - Line 2 is two words that describe the character
 - Line 3 is three words that tell the action of the character
 - Line 4 is four words that express the feelings of the character
 - Line 5 a word that recalls the character's feelings or emotions
- **Write a haiku** describing each character (3 total).
 - A haiku is a three line poem of 17 syllables and three lines
 - Line 1 five syllables
 - Line 2 seven syllables
 - Line 3 five syllables
- **Place the poems for each character on one sheet of 8.5 by 11 inch sheet of paper with your color illustration of the character in a scene from the story (3 sheets total).** Your illustration must include at least three predominate colors. Pencil is not a color.

Part 3 Vocabulary

Learning new words and using them in our work is an important part of 6th grade. This activity will give you a start.

From the novel, select ten challenging words in addition to the ones below (16 words total).

Apparition Contemplation Palanquin Besieged Brandishing Sagacity

For each word complete as much of the pattern below as possible (some words may not have a synonym or antonym):

Synonym: _____

Antonym: _____

Vocabulary word: _____

Definition:

Sentence of at least seven words:

I am looking forward to meeting you this fall when you join our class. It is my privilege to be your teacher and I anticipate a successful year. Have fun and enjoy working on this project this summer. 😊

Mr. Jim Dewey
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