

**REVISED THREE PAGE DOCUMENT, SEE SECOND PAGE FOR LANGUAGE ARTS ESSAY**

**MATH FOR MRS. MASCARENAS HAS ALSO BEEN REVISED**

**FOR MR. SPITZER'S READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSES**

**DATE: March 18, 2020**

### **5-8<sup>TH</sup> READING ASSIGNMENT**

For the time our school is closed, now to March 27<sup>th</sup>, I am asking our students to spend a minimum of one hour a day reading. Students may read as many hours as they like. Students are to also asked to keep a log of these hours. Students may use their computer skills to keep the log on a Word document which they can then periodically send me in an attachment at [rspitzer@cochiseschool.org](mailto:rspitzer@cochiseschool.org) or by copying and pasting into the body of their email. Those students who do not have access to computers may handwrite the log.

**The log should include:** Date and day of the week, what was read, and the time spent reading it. Please write a very brief critique telling me how helpful/entertaining/well-written the source was.

**Kind of reading:** I am requesting students read a variety of genres and sources. In other words, read different kinds of fiction, nonfiction of various sources including how-to, informational, anything which teaches about science, history, etc.

**Sources of reading material:** Of course, books and magazines and informational books located around the house are recommended. The Willcox library is closed. However, there are many sources for literature online, including Amazon (for purchase), and East of the Web at <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/indexframe.html> which is free. East of the Web has many classic short stories including the "Lady and the Tiger." Most of these stories will strengthen students' higher order thinking skills, critical reading skills. This website has parental ratings like PG listed. Please keep to G and PG.

There are many other reading websites. Perhaps seek these out and give me feedback on how good they would be for our class, so these sites may be shared should our vacation be extended.

**Grades:** Yes, I do plan on giving grades for our students' work on this project.

**Request of parents:** Students need to have access to computers and the Internet in order to seek out reading sources online. I am requesting parents allow their children that access, and encourage the parents to also read the same sources so they may question and discuss the content with their children. I mention the story "Lady and the Tiger" above. <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LadyTige.shtml> Please include this story

in the daily reading, and debate the story's final question, "And so I leave it with all of you: Which came out of the opened door - the lady, or the tiger?" I would love to see each student's justification for their choice.

## **5-8<sup>th</sup> WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR LANGUAGE ARTS**

Because our students are home with their families, this is a good opportunity to have children interview their parents, and perhaps better yet grandparents, about their years growing up.

Students are to interview their elders (grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, or if not available an elderly neighbor) about what it was like growing up for them (seek out more than one person to see common responses). What did they do decades ago to entertain themselves, technology available, daily life, a common evening with the family, favorite childhood memories, etc. Please take notes on what is said and then do a formal compare/contrast essay comparing their childhood to what is experienced daily in these areas by our children now.

The essay should have a formal introduction which names those interviewed and what this essay is about without using the words, "I am writing about..." Then organize the essay into paragraphs in each paragraph comparing/contrasting the various aspects of children's lives now vs. decades ago. And finally, finish with a conclusion which sums up the findings, perhaps noting surprises learned their family's experiences. As to length, probably most will be 500-800 words. I expect the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> essays to be more involved and longer.

**Requests of parents:** Please take advantage of this opportunity to assist your child by proofreading their work, suggesting revisions, and together, creating a final draft to send to me. This can be done on a Word document and attached in an email to me at [rspitzer@cochiseschool.org](mailto:rspitzer@cochiseschool.org). If this is not possible, then turning in handwritten upon our return to school will be fine.

**Grades:** Yes, these essays will be included in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades as well.

**DO NOT FORGET, EVERY STUDENT ALSO HAS THEIR INVESTWRITE.ORG ESSAY FOR BOTH MATH AND LANGUAGE ARTS CREDIT**

**FRECKLE WEBSITE:** Our school has a subscription to Freckle for our students. I do not know the passwords, but I believe Mr. Uterhardt is putting these on our school website. Please spend some time every day on Freckle doing some skills in each of the reading/language arts areas (ELA). <https://student.freckle.com/#/login>

5th grade - Mascax

6th grade - Mascac

7th grade - Masca8

8th grade - Mascaf

**TYPING PRACTICE:** Please practice typing a few minutes each day. <https://www.typing.com/> (student codes are name.cochise) and/or <https://10fastfingers.com/typing-test/english> Please do the 200 list as well as the advanced 1000 list, which includes capitalization skills and more difficult works. I would like to see feedback on words per minute. This can be included on the daily reading log.

**Questions:** I will gladly entertain questions. Please send to the above email address.

**Note:** I look forward to seeing everyone back at school soon. Please be patient with your parents who are likely under much more stress currently. Help them by doing your chores without having to be told twice, and school assignments without arguing.