

Unit #5: Giving Good Gifts

Language Arts 8

Mr. Coia

Name: _____ Period: _____

Mon 12/1 (Tues 12/2)

DUE TODAY:

- New unit guide
- Root Word 1-30 quiz
- Continue work on Explode a Moment writing
- Read: "Power of the Powerless" LOL 668-673

HW: **With all of the writing exercises this unit**, please do the following: On your flash drive, create a folder called "Writing Portfolio." Put your typed draft of Explode a Moment in it. Print a copy to bring to class.

Wed 12/3 (Thurs 12/4)

DUE TODAY: Explode a Moment writing

- Drug Presentation and Writing
- Guest Speaker: Ms. MacCulloch
- "Giving the Gift of Good Choices"

HW: Type/print/save good choices writing

Fri 12/5 (Mon 12/8)

DUE TODAY: Typed Good Choices writing

- Micro-Write: One-Syllable Words
- Read "Gift of the Magi" LOL 425-433
- Define *allusion* and *irony*
- Getting to the main idea

HW: Complete cause/effect sheet and main idea sheet; Type/print/save one-syllable writing

Tues 12/9 (Wed 12/10)

DUE TODAY: Gift of Magi work: cause & effect; main idea

- Root Word 1-40 quiz
- Micro-Write: I Am What I Am Not

HW: Type/print/save I Am What I Am Not

Thurs 12/11 (Fri 12/12)

DUE TODAY: Reading Logs due today (7 books total needed)

- Read author intro p. 458
- Read "Gifted Hands" LOL 450
- Reading Skillbuilder sheet: Evaluating

HW: Flash cards and study for quiz

Mon 12/15 (Tues 12/16)

DUE TODAY: study for quiz

- Root Word 1-50 quiz
- Micro-Write: Character Recipe Writing
- Computer lab work

HW: Type/print/save Character Recipe; *The Me Writing Project* Assembly

Wed 12/17 (Thurs 12/18)

DUE TODAY: Most of your writing project layout

- Computer lab work
- Final assembly, printing, and turn in for *The Me Writing Project*
- ***The Me Writing Project Due Today***

Fri 12/19

DUE TODAY:

- Unit Test
- Seinfeld: "Festivus"
- Christmas Music Mash-Up

HW: None, aside from reading books to add to your reading log. Enjoy your book-filled vacation.

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Mon 1/5/2009 (Tues 1/6/2009)

- DUE TODAY: Reading Logs due today (11 books total needed); No Root Words due this week

Unit Assignments:

Root Word Quizzes:	30 points
Story Work:	30 points
Micro-writes:	30 points
Me Writing Project	40 points
Reading Log	20 points

Content Standards for the Giving Good Gifts Unit

E1 Reading

E1a: The student reads at least twenty-five books or book equivalents each year.

E1b.1: makes and supports warranted and responsible assertions about the texts;

E1b.3: draws the text together to compare and contrast themes, characters, and ideas;

E2 Writing

E2b: The student produces a response to literature that:

E2b.2: advances a judgment that is interpretive, analytic, evaluative, or reflective;

E2c: The student produces **a narrative account (fictional or autobiographical)** that:

E2c.1: engages the reader by establishing a context, creating a point of view, and otherwise developing reader interest;

E2c.2: establishes a situation, plot, point of view, setting, and conflict (and for autobiography, the significance of events and of conclusions that can be drawn from those events);

E2c.3: creates an organizing structure;

E2c.4: includes sensory details and concrete language to develop plot and character;

E3 Speaking

E3b: The student participates in group meetings, in which the student:

E3b.1: displays appropriate turn-taking behaviors;

E3b.3: offers own opinion forcefully without dominating;

E3b.4: responds appropriately to comments and questions;

E4 Conventions

E4a: The student demonstrates control of:

E4b.4: rearranging words, sentences, and paragraphs to improve or clarify meaning

Assignment Descriptions

Micro-writing Assignments

Each class, we'll have a short writing assignment that will focus on you and your family. While we will discuss these formats and look at examples in class, here are the writing requirements to help.

- Explode a Moment from a meaningful time in your life (about 100 words)
- Giving the Gift of Good Choices writing (about 100 words)
- One-Syllable Word Writing (about 100 words. Topic: Mom, Dad, Life, Love, God, etc)
- I Am What I Am Not poem (20-30 lines that define you by what you are not)
- Character Recipe for parent/adult (How would you describe your mom, dad, close adult in terms of a recipe?)
- Three six-word memoirs (from earlier unit)
- Where I'm From poem (from earlier unit)

Root Word Study

We will continue our vocabulary acquisition for this class by studying root words, one of the best ways to learn meanings of words. This will help you in school, on your SATs, in college, and even on crossword puzzles!

Each week, we will review a group of roots. You will do the following after our study:

- Create flash cards, one per word or word group
- On the front, include the root(s), and the number
- On the back, include the meaning of the root and three examples of words that use the root
- Be sure that it is neat and clear. You may want to add color to assist in memorizing
- You may want to create the entire set at once, so you can spend your time studying, not creating
- You will remember these for life...I can guarantee it!

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The Me Writing Project

40 points

Due **Wednesday, 12/17 (Thursday, 12/18)**

This project will collect the various writing assignments from this unit to present together in a unified work. By looking at the various pieces together, the reader will see a bigger part of you.

As we write these in class, you'll type, save to your flash drive, and print.

We'll create it in such a way so that you may want to present it to your parents as a gift.

This requires that you have the following pieces of writing:

- Explode a Moment from a meaningful time in your life
- Giving the Gift of Good Choices writing
- One-Syllable Word Writing
- I Am What I Am Not poem
- Character Recipe for parent/adult
- Three six-word memoirs (from earlier unit)
- Where I'm From poem (from earlier unit)

Here's how you will be graded on this project:

Includes all pieces of writing in final format

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Layout is neat and professional, with more than one piece per page as discussed in class

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Each piece is titled with a brief introduction

0 1 2 3 4 5

Each piece is presented in a clear and unique font and font size

0 1 2 3 4 5

Contains a cover with title, name, date, and clear picture of you

0 1 2 3 4 5

Project and Writing reflects three weeks of work and effort

0 1 2 3 4 5

_____ / 40

Attach this sheet to the front of your project with a paper clip. Since this can be given as a present, please do not staple.

Character Recipe Writing

This example is from Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*. You will make one based on your mother, father, or important adult in your life.

Reverend Hale's Puritan Turnovers

Ingredients:

3 cups Religious Fervor (Puritan flavor)
1 cup Fear of Authorities
1 bunch Books Weighted with Authority
3 heaping tablespoons Pride
2 cups Faulty Logic
3 drops Yellow food coloring
pinch of Truth
1 pint Compassion
sprinkle Guilt
1 piece Rope

Directions:

Start with Religious Fervor and Books Weighted with Authorities. Knead until thoroughly mixed. Slowly fold in Faulty Logic, one chunk at a time. Sprinkle Pride over mixture and blend until thoroughly combined. Place in a hot Salem kettle. When mixture is in the heat, the backbone will be exposed. Carefully remove and discard. Add Yellow food coloring.

During cooking, mixture will slowly turn colors. Carefully add Truth. The yellow color will fade, giving way to a vibrant color. The Pride in the mixture will shrink, giving way to a healthier formation. Add Compassion. The Turnovers will remove themselves from the heat. Serve on a plain dish, garnished with a portion of Rope .

Preparation Time: Three months

Serves: Two people: Elizabeth and John Proctor. Perhaps not quite enough for either.

I Am What I Am Not Writing

It is possible to define ourselves not what we are, but rather, what we are not. Can you writing in such a way as to tell your reader who you are by telling what you are not like, what you do not like, and what you've never done?

Try to give 20-30 solid lines that cover a variety of subjects about you!

Example:

I Am What I Am Not Poem

I am not a sports guy
But I'm not ignorant of teams and scores and major games
I'm not an unbeliever with faith in nothingness
I'm not an only child or an orphan unloved by parents

I don't have piercings or tattoos
Or desires to have either

I'm not illiterate or greedy or rude
I don't need a new truck or plasma TV
To make me feel like a man
I don't need to be rich or famous
Or need to be around those who are

I've never watched an episode of CSI, ER, or other bloody television shows

I avoid mayonaisse and cilanto like a communicable disease
I don't understand the lack of civility in our discourse and culture

I no longer live in Rhode Island
Or even Oregon, for that matter

I'm not a single guy
Still waiting for her to come
I'm no longer alone or lonely
And I no longer have the whole bed to myself

I'm no longer a child
Or even a young man
But I'm not yet 40

My life is still not completed
And I can't see what life at 70 will be like
I doubt I'll like mayonaisse then, either