

Year 7 English Home Learning – How can YOU get involved?

What are we doing in class?

Term 1 - Autobiography

Looking at a variety of different extracts from famous autobiographies; (including 'Boy' by Roald Dahl) leading to a class presentation entitled 'My Life'.

Weekly Home Learning Task - Learning Key Spellings.

How can you get involved?

- Encourage your child to read an autobiography; maybe you could read one together? It can be about anyone; a famous sporting star, for example.
- Get spelling with your child: put their 'Key Spelling List' somewhere central where you can practise together – can you use and spell the words?
- The BBC Schools Website has some fantastic activities for all school ages; they can practise using accurate grammar and spelling: www.bbc.co.uk/schools

What are we doing in class?

Term 2 - Media

Studying a range of different adverts and advertising techniques; analysing how members of the public are manipulated into buying certain things.

Weekly Home Learning Task - How to accurately use the Comma.

How can you get involved?

- Encourage your child to watch television ... seriously? YES! Get them to think about how advertisers use different techniques to persuade you to buy certain products; e.g. celebrity endorsement.
- Collect a variety of different magazines and newspapers from which your son or daughter can cut out adverts and bring into class.
- Visiting supermarket websites as www.tesco.com or www.sainsburys.co.uk is a fantastic way to see how food products are being sold; focus on the use of bright colours, catchy slogans and clever packaging.

What are we doing in class?

Term 3 - The Novel

To be decided by the class teacher; choices include 'Skellig' by David Almond and 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by J.K. Rowling.

Weekly Home Learning Task - How to accurately use the Apostrophe.

How can you get involved?

- Read with your son or daughter! Each pupil should be given a copy of the text they are studying in class to take home with them.
- Fancy your own copy of the novel? Visit www.amazon.co.uk for some bargain books.

What are we doing in class?

Term 4 - Poetry - 'Love That Dog'

Introducing a wide range of poetry to the pupils, focusing on a collection called 'Love That Dog' by Sharon Creech.

Weekly Home Learning Task - Using the correct Homophone.

How can you get involved?

- Visit the www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org website – there's a fantastic 'kids' (and 'adults') zone. Quizzes, games and interactive activities are all combined to encourage the correct use of spelling and grammar: have a go yourself!

What are we doing in class?

Term 5 - Narrative Writing

Pupils are shown a variety of different stimulus - including DVD clips, evocative photographs - and are encouraged to use their imagination in the creation of a developed story.

Weekly Home Learning Task - How to vary sentence length and structure.

How can you get involved?

- Read a variety of different stories with your son or daughter so that they become inspired to write their own.
- The following blog from 'The Guardian' newspaper (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/series/building-a-children-s-library>) has a brilliant guide on how to create a 'Children's Library' with some fantastic recommendations to encourage your child to pick up a book.
- Encourage your son or daughter to write more: read their work and ask questions to inspire development; e.g. 'What might happen if the villain turned up at this point?'

Term 6 - Shocking Shakespeare

The pupils are introduced to Shakespeare by focusing on key scenes from several plays, including *'Romeo and Juliet'* and *'The Taming of the Shrew'*.

Weekly Home Learning Task - Using a variety of different connectives.

How can you get involved?

- Shakespeare can be fun! There are loads of fantastic 'modern' films inspired by Shakespearean originals – *'Ten Things I Hate about You'* is really *'The Taming of the Shrew'* and *'She's the Man'* began life as *'Twelfth Night'*.
- A number of Shakespeare plays have been adapted especially for children – visit www.amazon.co.uk and search for 'Shakespeare for Children' if you fancy reading along at home.
- www.shakespearesglobe.com and www.rsc.org.uk are superb websites that have an 'education' section; log on to watch videos from recently performed plays, worksheets encouraging pupils to explore Shakespearean language and an interactive tour of The Globe.

*** Although all pupils will be given paper copies of the Home Learning Tasks, all are available on the Pupil English Section of the VLE ***