

Be in the KNOW

7th graders have learned how to organize the different perspectives of Countries and Refugees in a chart using MLA format—Modern Language Association Format:

Works Cited (partial list)

Granlund, Dave. Media.cagle.com. *No Room! You'll Sink Us!* 2015. political comic.

Kneebone, Simon. *Refugees*. Wordpress.com. Political Comic.

Lyman, Rick. "Hungary to Close Its Border With Croatia in Migrant Crackdown." 16 October 2015. *The New York Times*. 16 October 2015.

Zlaudan. *The Migrant's Compass ... Junior Scholastic*. 2015. political comic.

Example of Part of the Table Students Created to organize learning.

<p>"...[Countries] ... must act quickly to set up proper reception centers ... [or] refugees and migrants will take matters into their own hands... (Lyman)."</p>	<p>Refugees are feeling that they are being left to die. This is shown in the comic that is an allusion to the unfilled lifeboats when the Titanic sank; people feared that the lifeboats would sink – as a consequence, many boats were not filled to capacity increasing the number of passengers who drowned (Granlund).</p>
<p>Countries feel threatened by the huge number of refugees; so much that they are sending their military out to greet them. From listening to the radio, I do know that countries fear that terrorists are hiding within the huge refugee crowds. This fear is inferred from the large military ship with its cannon pointing at the crowded refugee boat, while asking, "Where are you from" (Kneebone).</p>	<p>Refugees are feeling that the world's xenophobia (senseless fear or hatred of strangers) is giving them impossible choices, as illustrated in "The Migrant's Compass." The compass shows Boko Haram – a violent insurgent militia if they travel west, Al-Shabaab – another violent insurgent militia if they travel east – dangerous travel over seas [The Mediterranean Sea] if they travel north – and xenophobia if they travel south [the northern hemisphere] (Zlaudan).</p>



Seahawk Expectations

- Learn
- Make Healthy Choices
- Be a good citizen
- Have Fun

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A NOTE ABOUT HOMEWORK AND GRADES

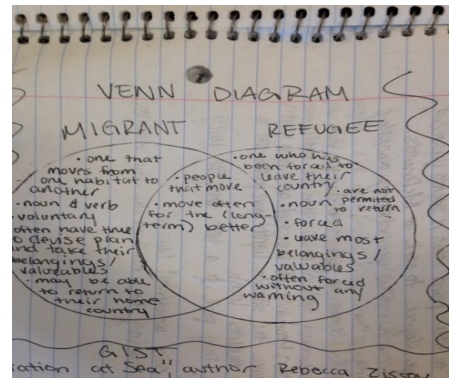
I have noticed that since I changed the homework to be due on Wednesdays and Fridays, the quality has gone way down—especially with the 7th grade students. Homework should take 20 minutes per night. Though I assign homework on Monday and it's due on Wednesday, there is still 40 minutes of homework that needs to be done. While homework is not a huge part of the student's grade, it will make the difference between an A and a B or a B and a C, etc ...

GRADES GRADES GRADES

Students must realize that they will earn

the A, B, C, D, or F ... I will not give it to them. I have been fairly lenient to date, but it is time to step up the quality. I have given students credit for homework, but I have specifically shared with them that in the future that kind of quality will receive a zero.

Here is an example of high quality homework when comparing and contrasting:



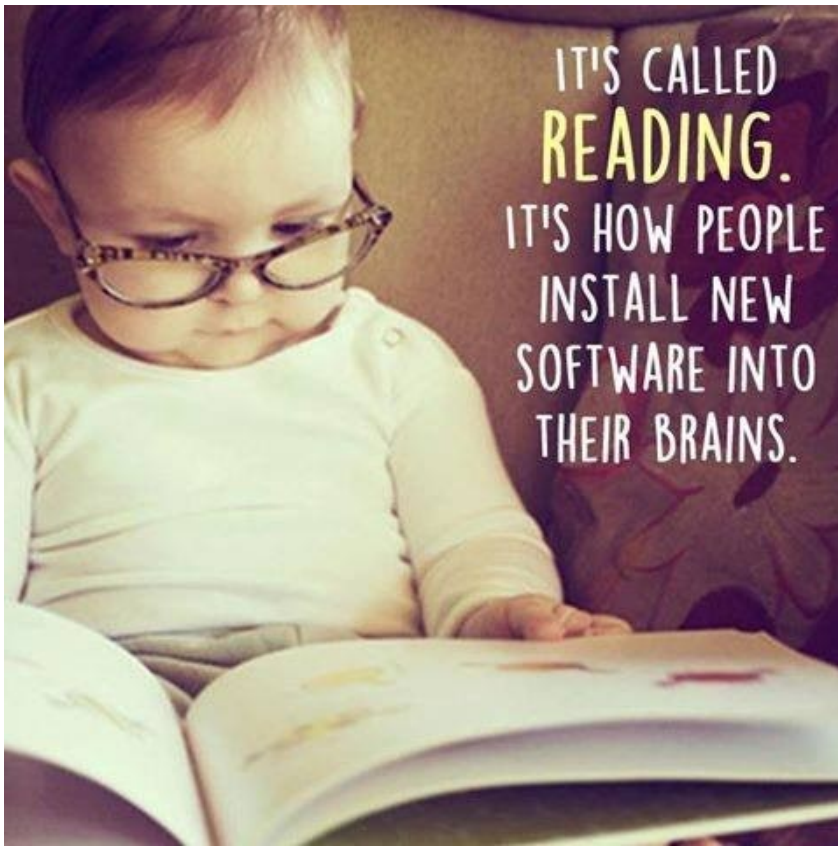
RELAX AND LET YOUR CHILD STRUGGLE

Now, I am NOT saying to let them fail! Be aware, and have consequences for low effort, but struggling is part of learning. The Standley Staff met with the UC High Staff this month and the take away is let the students problem solve—don't do it for them (teachers or parents). Encourage tutoring and even peer tutoring from others in the class; some students have begun using Facetime on their phones to do homework together! When students are unsure, help them make a decision and go for it. If they do something wrong, the effort was there, AND the effort is what matters. The UC High Staff called it: **AGENCY**

WEBSITES FOR REFERECE AND READING

*****New Passwords for magazine subscription access ... last month's had expired—sorry!!!!

- The New York Times Upfront Magazine upfront.scholastic.com
Sign in under Student with the password: **7Standley**
- Junior Scholastic Magazine junior.scholastic.com
Sign in under Student with the password: **6Standley**
- www.corestandards.org Common Core Curriculum information
- www.sandiegounified.org/schools/standley Standley Middle School Information
- www.sandiegounified.org/gifted-and-talented-education-gate
Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Information



6TH GRADE SEMINAR STUDY SYNC NEWS

- Although Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen, was read by many students in class before this year, I think maybe it ended up being a great book to help us all get into the new curriculum we are piloting.
- If you want to help your child at home, ask to see their writing, and the responses on their writing by myself and their peers. Their peer critique is anonymous :) One thing to notice is that I give a response on the overall writing, but I also annotate their writing to give specific feedback to specific areas of their text. Click on the highlighted areas under my (teacher) response to see my comments.
- I will really be pushing back against students for half-hearted reviews; for example, one student congratulated another for using evidence from the text, BUT THERE WAS ZERO evidence from the text used! Another student suggested the use of better sentence structure and more elaboration ... I want to push the students to give an example of how the sentence structure could be better, or where the student reviewed could have added more elaboration—teaching is learning, and if we have 35 teachers in the classroom, we all learn faster!!
- Here is an example of a high quality peer review:

“Try to proof read next time, ‘puts things nit need.’ I liked that you showed evidence but I don’t feel you answered the question fully. You told about how he [Paulsen] was descriptive but the question was asking specifically for the wife and the heart attack victim. Also, you didn’t explain yourself well. I feel this was very rushed work.”

ROOM 512’S WISH LIST:

- Lysol WIPES— PLEASE!
- Does anyone want to be a guest speaker for:
- 6th Grade—Survival Stories—did you or someone you know survive an ordeal? What did you/he/she do? I am looing for characteristic traits that help people overcome the challenges that life throws at we humans. This connects to our novel Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen which we will finish up in the next week.
- 7th Grade— Refugee Experiences, or a time when an event was so blown out of proportion by 1.) the media 2.) someone who gravely misunderstood, or possibly even twisted the perspective for selfish motives, or 3.) the snowball effect of a rumor. This connects to our novel Nothing But the Truth, by Avi which we will finish up next week, and the study we’ve done gathering perspectives from the Countries’ Views and the Refugees’ Views in the current Global Refugee Crisis.

Our first formal essay ...

7th Grade— Argument Essay

A. Do you consider either Philip or Miss Narwin “right” or “wrong” in the situation in this novel? What mistakes do you think each character made? Who do you blame for the problems that arise between the two?

Or

B. Considering the complex global refugee crisis, if you were the leader of a country faced with the choice of opening or closing your borders, what would you do?

6th Grade— Informative/ Explanatory Essay

Think about the selections you have read that involve life-changing experiences. Write an informative/explanatory essay in which you explain how three individuals in three of the excerpts you have read faced life-changing experiences, and analyze the impact of these changes on their lives and their countries.

***Don't worry ... this will be a step-by-step instruction essay beginning 11/6/15.

Perspective is how we see or feel about something. It could mean that people describing the same event have differing opinions because they were physically located in different places and therefore saw the event differently, or for some reason (experience, education, religious belief, etc.) their opinion is different from someone else who saw or heard the same event.

The Chased By Jacquie Frouin

My heart pounding, I sprinted fast as I could to get away from the hungry zombie. The zombie was surprisingly covering a lot of ground and was catching up to me. There was a building up ahead where two guards stood with machetes and knives, just 15 feet away. But the zombie was only 10 feet away from ME! “HELP! KILL THE ZOMBIE! LET ME IN! HEEEEELP!!!” I screeched at the top of my lungs to the guards. They finally noticed me, but it was too late. With a ravenous growl, the zombie barreled into me and sunk its nasty teeth into my arm, The guards ran over, but I was already starting to feel queasy. Hungry. The bite gave me a new perspective on the world. A horrible, hungry perspective. One of the guys came over to me and said, “Are you ok?” After a few seconds, I quickly looked up with a snarl and lunged at his neck. With a terrified scream, the guard collapsed. My first kill as a zombie...

The Chaser By Jacquie Frouin

My head, my heart, my soul. My hunger. I'm so hungry. Common sense told me not to tackle that poor girl, but, let's be honest, I stopped listening to common sense when my incredible hunger took over my body. And biting that girl helped some of my hunger ease away. Of course, though, my hunger never leaves. So hungry, I can't even think straight. I can't open doors, or climb ladders. I'm attracted to three things: Sight, smell, sound. And all of them enflame my hunger for human flesh and guts. I finally had a good hunt today. Although I do wonder who I was before my abdominal cravings took over. Who my family was. All of my memories are replaced with one need, one desire, one addiction. Food. Flesh. Guts. Organs. Mine, all mine. To placate my hunger. But nothing will ever placate it. Nothing will ever satisfy my hunger enough to stop cannibalizing. Hungry. Hungry, hungry, hungry. Hungry. HUNGRY, HUNGRY, HUNGRY, HUNGRY FOR FLESH! AND NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM TRYING TO CURE MY PAINFUL HUNGER!

Vocabulary Words in Context by Libby Endsley

Brian is a downtrodden optimist who is melancholy and experiencing many great ordeals! Brian is melancholy because “What he knew ... the secret” is haunting him, and because he has no idea where he is (lost in the Canadian wilderness). He struggles with self pity, but tries hard to be optimistic by continuously reminding himself of Mr. Perpich’ quotes, his old English teacher, when he begins to think failure is his only option— “...stay positive and stay on top of things ... get motivated.”

6th Grade Seminar AND 7th Grade Vocabulary Words

accelerate bystander canvass casual downtrodden entice erode flounder graphic
gruesome melancholy ordeal parch persist puny quibble ratify regal stifle vital