

Loma Prieta School 2010-2011

Class: **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts/Social Studies**

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The fifth grade language arts program is a weave of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The textbooks we will be using are the district approved Houghton Mifflin 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading series, supplemented by the *Jr. Great Books* series and other literature trade books. Our vocabulary and spelling program is based upon the teaching of Greek and Latin roots and lists from the Houghton Mifflin program. We will be preparing for and participating in the WordMasters contest, which occurs three times during the school year.

Vocabulary/spelling lists will be assigned each Monday with homework assignments nightly followed by a test on Friday. Other reading, responding to literature and writing assignments may carry over to homework. Homework will be recorded on the board, and class time dedicate to teaching how to record it into an agenda (student planner). If your child is absent, he/she should check the homework page on my website to see what we have done in class that day, as well as the daily homework to enable your child to not fall behind. Your child has as many days as he/she was absent to make up assignments.

Accelerated Reader is now back up and running. Your child should be reading **at least** 20 minutes per evening; they have a dedicated 15-minute SSR period each day. The word count goal for 5<sup>th</sup> grade is 800,000 words. To keep on track, your child should be reading about 13pts/month (approx. 40,000 words = 6 pts). For example, Roald Dahl's novel *Matilda* is 40,000 words and is worth 6pts; it is written on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. If your child is interested in reading a book not on AR, he/she needs to check it out with me first. If I approve it, there is an alternative assignment to the AR quiz, and I have a formula to calculate words that they then may submit for record.

Writing is a high priority in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. As with the reading assignments, social studies content will be linked to our writing. To help the students' understanding of what it was like during the earlier years of our country's history, they will be participating in simulations along with reading novels from the era and reflecting upon their experiences in writing, sometimes in character. Brainstorming, peer conferencing, teacher lead conferencing and revising will be done in class. The final editing and publishing components of these assignments will be assigned as homework. Sometimes the rough drafts may be as well. This year Pat McGrath will be teaching and supporting research skills for social studies during the students' library times.