

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP English/Language Arts Acknowledgement Form

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**RETURN THIS FORM TO MS. HEERSSEN**

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Student Name (please print)

Course Name: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP ELA

I completely understand that this course is part of a rigorous program designed to prepare students for high school level instruction at the junior high level. For students to be fully successful, it is important they possess good time management skills and exceptional study habits.

I am fully aware that because of the intense nature of the Pre-AP program, coursework will be more demanding, and students will be challenged to think at a higher and more complex level; because of this, it is likely there will be more homework and outside reading.

I know that failure to complete the summer homework by the first day of school next year or failure to return this form before the end of the school year could not only affect a student's grades, but could seriously jeopardize a student's enrollment in this program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Stockdale Junior High School Pre-AP English/Language Arts program. The Pre-AP English/Language Arts program is designed to prepare a student for the high school Pre-AP/AP English program while still in junior high.

One skill necessary to the Pre-AP program is reading outside of class. This summer incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders need to read The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins and The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan before school starts in August. Students need to acquire their own copy of these books. I am also requesting that parents sign their name next to the books that their child has read on the parent signature form, and that students return their signed list to me during the first week of school.

As you read both novels, you need to answer the attached questions on separate paper. Be sure to answer all questions with COMPLETE SENTENCES. Be specific and detailed. Use examples from the book to explain your answers. The questions will be due the second day of school. If you turn in these questions on the first day of school you will receive extra credit. When you return to school you will be required to complete an additional project over the books.

Please read below for the novel descriptions.

**ALL STUDENTS WILL READ:**

**The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.

**Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan**

Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime

suspect. Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

**REMEMBER – ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON SEPARATE PAPER AND WRITE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. THE PROJECT WILL BE DONE WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL IN AUGUST.**

If you have any questions I can be reached by e-mail all summer long. Feel free to drop me a line at [jennifer.heerssen@stockdaleisd.org](mailto:jennifer.heerssen@stockdaleisd.org). Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Heerssen

## Summer Novel Project Study Questions

### The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

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**Answer each question in complete sentences and on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. How does Katniss feel about the country of Panem? Why does she need to make her face "an indifferent mask" and be careful what she says in public?
2. Describe the relationships of Katniss with Gale, with Prim, with her mother. How do those relationships define her personality? Why does she say about Peeta, "*I feel like I owe him something, and I hate owing people.*" How does her early encounter with Peeta affect their relationship after they are chosen as tributes?
3. How does the fact that the tributes are always on camera affect their behavior from the time they are chosen? Does it make it easier or harder for them to accept their fate? How are the "career tributes" different from the others?
4. Why are the "tributes" given stylists and dressed so elaborately for the opening ceremony? Does this ceremony remind you of events in our world, either past or present? Compare those ceremonies in real life to the one in the story.
5. When Peeta declares his love for Katniss in the interview, does he really mean it or did Haymitch create the "star-crossed lovers" story? What does Haymitch mean when he says, "*It's all a big show. It's all how you're perceived.*" Why do they need to impress sponsors and what are those sponsors looking for when they are watching the Games?
6. Before the Games start, Peeta tells Katniss, "*. . . I want to die as myself. . . I don't want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster that I'm not.*" What does this tell you about Peeta? What does he fear more than death? Is he able to stay true to himself during the Games?
7. Why does Katniss ignore Haymitch's advice to head directly away from the Cornucopia? Did she do the right thing to fight for equipment? Explain.
8. What are the most important skills Katniss has for staying alive - her knowledge of nature? - her skill with bow and arrow? - her trapping ability? What qualities of her personality keep her going - her capacity for love? - her intelligence? - her self-control? Explain.
9. Why does Peeta join with the Career Tributes in the beginning of the Games? What does he hope to gain? Why do they accept him when they start hunting as a group? Why do groups form in the beginning when they know only one of them will be able to survive?

10. What makes Katniss and Rue trust each other to become partners? What does Katniss gain from this friendship besides companionship? Is Katniss and Rue's partnership formed for different reasons than the other group's?

11. Discuss the ways in which the Gamemakers control the environment and "entertainment" value of the Games. How does it affect the tributes to know they are being manipulated to make the Games more exciting for the gamblers and viewers? Does knowing that she is on live TV make Katniss behave differently than she would otherwise?

12. When does Katniss first realize that Peeta does care for her and is trying to keep her alive? When does she realize her own feelings for him? Did Haymitch think all along that he could keep them both alive by stressing the love story? Are they actually in love?

13. What do you think is the cruelest part of the Hunger Games? What kind of people would devise this spectacle for the entertainment of their populace? Can you see similarities between these Games and the society that condones them, and other related events and cultures in the history of the world?

14. Reality TV has been a part of the entertainment world since the early days of television (with shows such as *Candid Camera* and the *Miss America Pageant*), but in the 21st century there has been a tremendous growth of competitive shows and survival shows. Discuss how this phenomenon relates to *The Hunger Games*. What other aspects of our popular culture do you see reflected in this story?

## Summer Novel Project Study Questions

### The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

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**Answer each question in complete sentences and on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. What does Percy discover about the Greek gods at Camp Half Blood? What do they have to do with the camp?
2. Why is Percy more excited about his upcoming quest to the Underworld than scared? What other feelings does he have about his assignment?
3. What clues do Percy and his friends have that all is not right with "Auntie Em?" Why do you think they overlook them?
4. What does Percy's fight with Echidna reveal about his character? What new things does he discover about himself?
5. At the Lotus Casino, Percy realizes that unless he gets out quickly, he will *"...stay here, happy forever, playing games forever, and soon I'd forget my mom, and my quest, and maybe my own name. I'd be playing virtual rifleman with groovy Disco Darrin forever."* What critique is the author offering of modern life? Do you agree with it?
6. When describing the effects of Mist, Chiron says, *"Remarkable, really, the lengths humans will go to fit things into their version of reality."* How is this true in the novel? In Greek mythology?
7. How does the last line of the prophecy *"you shall fail to save what matters most in the end"* come true? What do you think of this ending? Did Percy make the right choice?
8. Throughout the story, Percy is troubled by frightening dreams. In what ways do those dreams increase the tension in the story? Is their menace completely resolved by the end of the story?
9. After her return from the quest, Annabeth resolves to try again to live with her father and her stepfamily. Do you think they will all get along better now? Why? Why not? What do you predict will happen?
10. In the end of the book, do you sympathize at all with Luke's feelings of betrayal? Is there anything you can relate to about his point of view?

**SUMMER READING  
PARENT VERIFICATION FORM**

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**RETURN THIS FORM TO MS. HEERSSEN THE 1<sup>st</sup> WEEK OF SCHOOL**

I confirm that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, has read the following books and completed both summer reading assignments for Pre-AP English/Language Arts.

Please initial beside the books your child has read this summer.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

\_\_\_\_\_ The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature