

## WRITING ADVENTURE # 1

Are you ready for a writing adventure? For this assignment, you will have several choices! Each choice has its own unique brand of fun!

\*\*\*\*\***CHOICE # 1** affords you the opportunity to celebrate and detail "what Veterans' Day means to you." (Veterans Day is coming up on November 11, 2014.) This is your chance to write an essay explaining how you would answer that question. You can even enter your essay in a Veteran's Day Essay Contest and possibly win money! The details for the contest are attached to that option.

\*\*\*\*\***CHOICE # 2** allows you the opportunity to detail the most unique and exciting place you have ever been, any place, wherever it may have been. You will use imagery (sensory details) to describe it. This is your chance to take your readers on a fascinating journey!

\*\*\*\*\***CHOICE # 3** allows you to explore poetry by Native American authors and to celebrate Native Americans' Day in the United States (September 26, 2014) by writing about that literature and how you can honor Native Americans beyond just this day.

## CHOICE #1: Veteran's Day Essay

First, **LOOK** at the pictures that are on pages 217-219 of our (yellow) literature book.

Next, **READ** the passages on pages 216-222 in our literature book. Also, **READ** the attached entry rules for entering the Veteran's Day Essay Contest and decide if you want to enter.

Then, **THINK** about the sacrifices that Americans who have served in the military have made. **THINK** about how you feel about them and what you can do to show your thanks. Maybe this is someone you are close to like a parent, grandparent, sibling, or family friend. **THINK** also about the feelings you felt when you read "A Wall of Remembrance" and "A Mother's Words."

Finally, **WRITE** a four to five paragraph essay in which you explain "What Veteran's Day Means to Me."

Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than two pages! You will also need to see me so that we can look at potential revising/editing needs.

Due Date: Friday, October 3, 2014

## VETERANS DAY ESSAY PROGRAM

**SUBJECT:** Theme or essay for VETERANS DAY PROGRAM, November 11, 2014

**ELIGIBILITY:** Middle School and High School Students

This program includes scouting organizations and church youths from private and public school classes. The contest is open to all students within the Central Texas area including all counties surrounding Travis County.

**TOPIC:** "WHAT VETERANS DAY MEANS TO ME"

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Essays are limited to two pages. Papers must be typewritten, double spaced, one side only, on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper.  
Information must include: Name of student, school name, school phone number, grade, and teacher's name. Also, include the parents name and phone numbers. "THIS INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO QUALIFY."

**DEADLINE:** Papers are due no later than October 10, 2014.

**SUBMIT TO:** VETERANS DAY AWARDS COMMITTEE, AWARDS PROGRAM

**ATTENTION:** Veterans Service Office  
Travis County  
PO Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767

**JUDGING:** A committee selected by the Veterans Day Awards Committee will judge all entries. Contents, spelling, punctuation, and compliance with above requirements will be used in the judging. Each Student should keep a copy of their essay.

**AWARDS:**

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>FIRST PLACE:</b>  | Grades 9-12---\$300 Cash Card |
|                      | Grades 6-8----\$300 Cash Card |
| <b>SECOND PLACE:</b> | Grades 9-12---\$200 Cash Card |
|                      | Grades 6-8----\$200 Cash Card |
| <b>THIRD PLACE:</b>  | Grades 9-12---\$100 Cash Card |
|                      | Grades 6-8----\$100 Cash Card |

**WINNERS:** All winners will be announced prior to the Veterans Day program and will be asked to be present to accept their awards on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. on the front steps of the Capitol. The two First Place Essays winners selected, will be required to orally present his/her essay at the Veterans Day Parade program. All winners will be required to provide their mailing address.

## CHOICE #2: Describing a Place!

First, **LOOK** at the pictures that are on pages 69, 97, and 123 in our *Writing Coach* textbook (blue).

Next, **READ** the passages entitled "Travel Writing" and "Austin, Texas, 'Bats' a Million" on page 140 of *Writing Coach*.

Then, **THINK** about how a place can transform your mood, bring back memories, or inspire creativity, and take you to another place altogether!

Now, **WRITE** a four to five paragraph essay in which you address the following prompt:

*Think of the most exciting, most enjoyable, or weirdest place you have every visited. What are the qualities and features that give the place its special character? Write a **descriptive essay** that will allow your readers to share your impressions of this special place.*

**This essay requires that you use imagery.** Your reader should be able to see, hear, feel (literally), smell, and perhaps even taste what you experienced there.

You will be writing this piece in the online *Writing Coach*! You will use the password formula displayed on the board. Click "Agree" past the introductory screens. Select "By Paragraph" when asked, and note that as you finish each paragraph you can click "Get Feedback" and see what the Online Writing Coach has to say about the paragraph you produced! **DO NOT FORGET TO SAVE YOUR PROGRESS AND CLICK "SUBMIT FOR GRADING" OR YOUR TEACHER WILL NOT RECEIVE IT!** If you have any problems with writing in the online *Writing Coach*, you should type your paper in a Microsoft Word document then save it on your Google Drive account or a flash drive. We will cut and paste the final copy later. ☺

**Due Date: Friday, October 3, 2014**

### CHOICE #3: Native Americans' Day Essay

First, **LOOK** at the art and photographs that are on pages 290 and 615 in the literature book (yellow).

Next, **READ** the biographical information on page 289 about Leslie Marmon Silko and her poem entitled "It Was a Long Time Before;" also, read the biographical information about N. Scott Momaday on page 613 and his poem entitled "The Delight Song of Tsoai-Talee."

Then **THINK** about the vibrant and vital history Native Americans have established in this country; there are many tribes, and they have diverse histories that are unique and varied. **THINK** about how the poems you read illuminate some details of the values that the Native American authors want to share with their readers.

Now, **WRITE** a four to five paragraph essay in which you address one or all of the following prompts:

- *What can you do to honor, celebrate, and learn about the diversity of Native American tribes throughout American history?*
- *What are some things that you feel future students should do to learn respect and reverence for the contributions of Native Americans to this country?*
- *What can future generations do to prevent the types of tragedies that befell Native Americans throughout history? Think about what you know about racism and intolerance.*

You may type **OR** handwrite this essay!

Due Date: Friday, October 3, 2014