

In 7th grade, your child will analyze, define, compare, and evaluate ideas when reading, writing, speaking, and listening. He or she will continue to analyze how themes in fiction and nonfiction develop over the course of a book or article. Readings will include classic and contemporary pieces that represent diverse perspectives. In particular, 7th grade students' ability to cite specific evidence when offering an interpretation of a text matures. They use relevant evidence when supporting their own points in writing and speaking, making their reasoning clear to readers or listeners or constructively evaluating others' use of evidence. This ability will help your child in every facet of his or her studies.

Skills Your Child Will Be Working On

- Citing several sources of specific evidence from a piece when offering an oral or written analysis of a book, essay, article, or play
- Analyzing works of fiction to see how events advance the plot and how setting shapes the characters
- Determining an author's point of view or purpose in a nonfiction work and analyzing how the author takes a position different from other authors
- Organizing and focusing his or her own writing, including supporting statements and conclusions with evidence and showing that the evidence is accurate and reliable
- Conducting research in response to a specific question by drawing on evidence from several credible literary or informational sources to support an analysis or reflection
- Avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citations (e.g., footnotes, bibliography)
- Evaluating a speaker's key points and reasoning, asking questions, and stating his or her own well-supported ideas in discussions
- Presenting claims and findings to others emphasizing main points, making eye contact, speaking loudly enough, pronouncing words clearly, and using formal English when the situation calls for it
- Using common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to defining the meaning of a word (e.g., semi-, semiannual, semicircle)

Learning Activity to Use at Home

READING ACTIVITY

Read the same fiction book together with your child. Select key stopping points in the book where you will get back together to spend time discussing what has happened in the book up to that point. Discuss what each of you think might happen in the next section of the book and make predictions to one another. After the next section is read, compare who made the more accurate predictions to what really happened in the book.

WRITING ACTIVITY

Take a Trip - Whenever the family has to make a large purchase such as for a car, appliance or vacation, ask your child to do the research online for this special event. After the child locates relevant information, he or she should then summarize the information, and prepare a list of the pros and cons of each option. He or she should then make a recommendation to meet the family needs and interests complete with logical arguments and evidence.

Teacher and Parent Conferencing - Topics for ongoing conversations throughout the school year with your child's teacher.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In seventh grade, these include:

- Is your child, developing a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and using them to speak and write more precisely and coherently?
- Is your child reading on grade-level orally with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension?
- Can your child gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation?

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?