

# Ms. Chelsee's Message in a Bottle

(from the "non-shipwrecked" S.S. Gr 2)

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016!



## Anchors Aweigh!

So, how has your return voyage been so far? The sea lions seem to be adjusting swimmingly!

As a reminder, the end of the quarter ends this coming Wednesday, with a culminating day off for you! (err, umm for the sea lions anyway) As for me, I shall be entering data into the grading Loxodograph.

On another surfboard, summaries for the upcoming quarter will be comprised mostly of reviews and reports on Literature Circle books. What is a Literature Circle you ask?

Sea lions will break into different literature circle groups based on their reading level/abilities. I will introduce each group to a chapter book at their level. Sea lions will predict what their chapter book will be about and who the characters might be. Sea lions would then meet in their literature circle groups to share their predictions and begin reading their chapter book. The Discussion Director always starts off reading, and leads the group throughout the literature circle time in stopping to allow the Passage Predictor to do his/her job. Students read aloud one-two pages at a time (their choice) and take turns going around the circle. If a student does not have strong reading fluency, the other group members can encourage them to sound out words (We have a conversation before starting groups about how important it is to encourage and support group members so that everyone feels comfortable and confident to participate).

Once chapter books are started, here is a sample of an in class literature circle group schedule (this becomes our daily ELA lesson):

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Book Cover of Predictions activity independently, then groups meet to share (Possibly reading)	Groups meet to read....I usually give each group a page # to stop at. (I rotate around groups)	Groups meet to read together. I give a stopping page and then students start their job for the week.	Students work independently on their job.	Groups meet to share literature circle job sheets. I sometimes will give a fun extension activity to work on as a group after sharing.

### Job & Description:

Discussion Director	Leads the group in stopping at certain points in the reading for the passage predictor to do their job, asks questions, and starts off reading aloud.
Creative Connector	Makes text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections based on the text read.
Passage Predictor	Predicts what will happen next at two stopping points during the groups' reading.
Artistic Artist	Illustrates what was read and writes a caption.
Super Summarizer	Records the main events, characters, and setting in the section read.
Word Wizard	Identifies new, interesting, fun words in the text read. Then looks for the definition, part of speech, and writes a sentence of their own.

Please know we will start with a mini Literature circle first. More details and HW assignments will be included in the weekly Loxodograph. Stay tuned or afloat for more info!



Please ask your sea lion about this week's "Posh Port Holes":

- \*Measurement
- \*Words with the k sound
- \*Finding "fools gold" on the island!
- \*Last letter-style summary
- \*Planting our newest MIMOSA items
- \*Word of the Week: confidence

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Birthday "Shell"-ebrations for this week: Rowan! \*\*She will be providing a pizza, veggie and sweet treat lunch on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to bring a "back-up" lunch.



Treasured Dates:

April 12, 13, 19, 20 & May 3, 4

FSA Testing for grades 4 & 5

April 14<sup>th</sup>

PI Night--- Yoga & PE! @ 6pm

(The sea lions are concocting quite a "Mackerel" of a treat! Come early to try it out! Or if you are interested in helping to cook on an afternoon this week, please let Cathy Stubee know.)

\*\*Report Cards go home on this day as well!

April 19<sup>th</sup>

HLA Board of Directors Mtg. @ 4pm



Tip of the Iceberg: **And your TIPS assignment for the week/ weekend:**

Pronouncing and sounding out words is important! Do you find learning the phonics rules helpful? What do you find challenging about the way we mark our cards? Does your sea lion seem to have a handle on marking their cards and understanding what phonics rule we are following for the week?

Please take some time this weekend OR on Monday evening and work together with your sea lion.

I will provide an extra notecard for you to jot down your thoughts on the questions above. Feel free to be as honest as you would like! Your comments can be anonymous.

**TIPS assignment is due Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance for your efforts and diligence on this matter.**

## "Deck Swabbin' Spelling List"

(closed syllable, short vowel sound, double consonant when adding suffix)

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bugged	staff
swimming	foggy
funny	hopping
slapped	class
fluff	discuss