Language Arts/ Reading Winter Express

Grades 9-12

ANSWER KEY

Winter 2012-2013

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Office of Academics and Transformation
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Welcome to the Language Arts/Reading Winter Express

The purpose of the Winter Express is to experience quality literature and various reading explorations while school is out for winter break. Attached you will find a list of appropriate grade-level books that can be found in the public library, reading excerpts, and grade level activities that may be used to enhance the winter reading experience for students. The reading materials and activities are reflective of different learning styles, and guide students in applying concepts they have studied.

Activities address and are aligned with Next Generation Sunshine State Standards providing continuous opportunities for our students to move along a continuum of learning experiences that will empower and build their confidence as learners.

We encourage both students and parents to participate to make this winter reading experience fun and enjoyable for the whole family.

Benchmarks

BENCHMARK:

LA.9-10.1.6.2 Listen to, read, and discuss familiar and conceptually challenging text.
LA.9-10.1.6.3 Use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words.
LA.9-10.1.6.8 Identify advanced word/phrase relationships and their meanings.
LA.9-10.6.11 Identify the meaning of words and phrases derived from Greek and Latin words and identify frequently used words from other languages.
LA.9-10.1.7.3 Determine the main ideas or essential message in grade-level text through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.
LA.9-10.1.7.5 Analyze a variety of text structures and text features and explain their impact on meaning in text.
LA.9-10.2.1.6 Critique works by the same author, including a book and a movie.
LA.9-10.2.2.3 Organize information to show understanding.
LA.9-10.3.5.3 Share the writing with the intended audience.
LA.9-10.4.2.4 Write a variety of informal communications.
LA.9-10.4.3.2 Include persuasive techniques.
LA.9-10.5.1.1 Use fluent and legible handwriting skills.
LA.9-10.5.2.1 Listen and gain information for a variety of purposes.
Which Holiday Do You Celebrate?

Create your holiday celebration cube. Label each side with the following topics: Name of Celebration, foods, songs, symbols, colors, family/stories. Make sure to provide descriptions for each topic. **Answers will vary.**
Winter Celebration Throughout the World

Answers may vary but include some of the following details.

**Junkanoo** is a street parade with music which occurs in many towns across the Bahamas, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and some other Commonwealth nations. It is traditionally celebrated every Boxing Day, the day following Christmas Day, December 26\textsuperscript{th}. It is believed that this festival began during the 16\textsuperscript{th} and 17\textsuperscript{th} centuries. The slaves in The Bahamas were given a special holiday around Christmas time, when they would be able to leave the plantations to be with their family and celebrate the holidays with African dance, music, and costumes. This tradition has continued and Junkanoo has evolved from its simple origins to a more formal, organized parade with sophisticated, intricate costumes, themed music and prizes. It is a celebration where people wear masks and dance to music in the streets beginning at 2 am and ending at dawn.

**Kwanzaa** is a celebration that has its roots in the Black Nationalist movement of the 1960's and was established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African cultural and historical heritage. It was created by Maulana Karenga and first celebrated in 1966-1967. Traditionally it is observed from December 26 to January 1 culminating in a feast and gift-giving celebration. This is a week-long celebration held in the United States and Canada, and each day represents one of the seven core principles (Nguzo Saba) unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

**Chanukkah:** One of the most popular Jewish holidays, not for its religious significance, but for its proximity to Christmas. The history of Chanukkah is the celebration of a revolution against assimilation and the suppression of Jewish religion. It is celebrated from December 26 to January 1 with the tradition of the lighting of the menorah, a series of seven candles. Chanukkah celebrates two things: a miracle in which one day’s worth of oil burned for eight days, and the victory of the Jewish freedom fighters over the Syrian-Greek forces that tried to wipe out Judaism in the second century B.C.E. Chanukkah marks the very first battle fought neither for territory, nor for conquest of another people, but in order to achieve religious freedom. In larger sense, then Chanukkah celebrates a reaffirmation of freedom and a recommitment to the spiritual quest.

**Hogmany:** A New Year’s Celebration in Germany from December 29 to January 1. It is four nights of partying, celebrating the New Year. Every night there are different activities and events for people to enjoy. Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year (Gregorian calendar) in the Scottish manner.
Winter Celebration Throughout the World

**Bodhi Day:** In the world of Buddhism, an important day of celebration is December 8th. This is the day that many Buddhists celebrate Bodhi Day. Bodhi Day is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment (bodhi).

**St. Nicholas Day** is observed on December 6 and traditionally celebrated in Northern Europe. Children are taught that Santa Claus is actually St. Nicholas, a Fourth Century bishop known for his kindness. He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, and thus became the model for Santa Claus. Traditional celebrations of Saint Nicholas Day in Northern Europe included gifts left in children's shoes (the origin of our American Christmas stockings). Good children receive treats - candies, cookies, apples and nuts, while naughty children receive switches or lumps of coal. Sometimes coins were left in the shoes, reminiscent of the life-saving doweries the saint provided. In some households the father of the family may dress up as Saint Nicholas on the eve of his feast. He comes in, sometimes with his sidekick, Krampus or Black Peter, and helps each child examine his conscience. He admonishes the bad and rewards the good.

**Advent/Christmas:** Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (December 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve beginning at sundown. The main color is purple, which represent royalty. Advent is a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is a Christian holiday that can be celebrated in the home and/or in the church.

**Three Kings Day** takes place on January 6 (12 days after Christmas). This is a Christian holiday in Mexico where children receive gifts instead of on Christmas day. It is a celebration that commemorates the Biblical story of the three kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, who followed the star of Bethlehem to bring gifts to the Christ child.
Winter Celebration Throughout the World

**Lunar New Year:** A holiday celebrated for two weeks by the Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese, it takes place during the first three days of the first lunar moon (late January or early February). People dress up in costumes and exchange food and gifts.

**Japanese New Year:** Celebrating the New Year is the biggest event in Japan. Omisoka is New Year’s Eve in Japan. People spend a great deal of time cleaning and shopping to prepare for the new year (much like spring cleaning in the United States) in order to get rid of the dirty past and start the new year fresh and clean. Shogatsu is the celebration that takes place on New Year’s day. People decorate their homes and give gifts of money and toys to children and greeting cards to family and friends.

**Las Posadas:** Las Posadas is a nine-day celebration with origins in Spain, now celebrated chiefly in Mexico, Guatemala and parts of the Southwestern United States. This holiday takes place December 16 to December 24 in Mexico. In English, it means “the Inn” and is a traditional Mexican festival which reenacts Joseph’s search for a room at the inn. Each Christmas season, a procession carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walks through the community streets.

**Eid-al-Adha:** Eid al-Adha or Feast of Sacrifice is the most important feast of the Muslim calendar. It is a three day feast that marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

This is a Muslim holiday that begins on January 10. It commemorates Ibrahim’s (Abraham) willingness to obey God by sacrificing his son, Ishmael. Muslims believe Ishmael is the forefather of the Arabs.

**World Religion Day:** This holiday takes place on January 15 and is celebrated by those of the Baha’i religion. It originated in the United States and aims to foster the establishment of interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying all religions. The message of World Religion Day is that mankind, which has stemmed from one origin, must now strive towards the reconciliation of that which has been split up.
A Tourist in Your Own Town

Many times, we host out-of-town relatives and friends over the winter break. Other times, we simply stay at home rather than travel during the break. It isn’t necessary to sit at home and do nothing. There are many wonderful attractions available for little or no cost right here in Miami-Dade County.

Possible Attractions for Family Fun and Learning:

Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre  
305-444-9293  
[Website: www.actorsplayhouse.org]

Barnacle Historic State Park  
305-442-6866  
[Website: www.floridastateparks.org/thebarnacle]

Biscayne National Park  
305-230-1100  
[Website: www.nps.gov/bisc/]

Biscayne Nature Center  
305-361-6767  
[Website: www.biscaynenaturecenter.org]

Deering Estate  
305-235-1668  
[Website: www.deeringestate.org]

Everglades National Park  
305-242-7700  
[Website: www.nps.gov/ever]

Fairchild Tropical Gardens  
305-667-1651  
[Website: www.fairchildgarden.org/]

Haitian Heritage Museum  
305-371-5988  
[Website: www.haitianheritagemuseum.org]

Historic Hampton House  
305-635-5130  
[Website: www.dadeheritagetrust.org]

Jewish Museum of Florida  
305-672-5044  
[Website: www.jewishmuseum.com]

Jungle Island  
305-400-7000  
[Website: www.jungleisland.com]

Miami Science Museum  
305-646-4200  
[Website: www.miamisci.org]

Miami Children’s Museum  
305-373-5437  
[Website: www.miamichildrensmuseum.org]

Miami Metrozoo  
305-251-0400  
[Website: www.miamimetrozoo.com]

Museum of Contemporary Art  
305-893-6211  
[Website: www.mocanomi.org]

Local Guide for Exploring Miami for Free  
http://miamiflonthecheap.com/cheap-fun-with-kids/

ACTIVITIES: Interpretations may vary. Please accept any reasonable depiction.

- Picture Notes – create an illustration and add phrases, labels, and symbols representing the places they have visited.
- Stamp- design a stamp to advertise the places you visited.
- Poster- make a poster advertising the places you have visited to encourage someone else to visit there too.
VOCABULARY – CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

How many ways can you say, “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year?” Look at the following list and see if there are relationships between the words of one language and another. What might explain the similarities and differences?

Students should use this as a discussion platform to discover commonalities. For example, Argentina and Portuguese both use Feliz.

Argentine - Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo
Bohemian - Vesele Vanoce
Brazilian - Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo
Bulgarian - Vesela Koleda i chestita nova godina!
Catalan - Bon Nadal i un Bon Any Nou!
Chinese - Sing Dan Fae Lok. Gung Hai Fat Choi (Cantonese)
Chinese - Shen Dan Kuai Le Xin Nian Yu Kuai (Mandarin)
Croatian - Sretan Bozic
Czech - Stastne a vesele vaneoce a stastny novy rok!
Danish - Glaedelig Jul og godt nyter
Dutch - Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuw Jaar
English - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Eskimo - (inupik) Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivdluaritlo!
Filipinos - Maligayang Pasko
Finnish - Hyvää joulua ja onnellista uutta vuotta!
French - Joyeux Noel et Bonne Année!
Scotts Gaelic - Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath yr!
German - Frohe Weihnachten und ein g|ckliches Neues Jahr!
Hawaiian - Mele Kalikimaka ame Hauoli Makahiki Hou!
Hungarian - Kellemes karacsonyi uennepeket es boldog ujevet!
Icelandic - Gledhileg jsl og farsflt komandi ar!
Indonesian - Selamat Hari Natal dan Selamat Tahun Baru!
Iraqi - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
Irish Gaelic - Nollaig Shona duit
Italian - Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Japanese - Meri Kurisumasu soshite Akemashite Omedeto!
Latin - Natale hilare et Annum Faustum!
Modern Greek - Kala Christougenna kai evtichismenos o kainourios chronos!
Norwegian - God Jul Og Godt Nytt Aar
Polish - Wesołe Boże Narodzenie
Portuguese - Feliz Natal e um Prospero Ano Novo
Romanian - Craciun fericit si un an nou fericit
Russian - S nastupaiushchim Novym godom Is Rozhdestvom Khristovym!
Slovakian - Sretan Bozic or Vesele vianoce
Spanish - Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo
Swedish - God Jul Och Ett Gott Nytt Ar
Thai - Suk san wan pee mai - Happy New Year
Turkish - Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun
Ukrainan - Z novym rokom i s rizdovm Hrystovym!
Vietnamese - Chuc mung nam moi va Giang Sinh vui ve
Welsh - Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Da!
Yoruba - E ku odun, e ku iye’dun!
Winter Solstice

Many holidays are centered around the winter solstice – the astronomical event of the Winter solstice, occurring sometime between December 20 and 23 each year in the northern hemisphere, and between June 20 and 23 in the Southern Hemisphere. It is the shortest day and the longest night of the year, marking the beginning of winter when the sun is at its greatest distance from the equatorial plane. The name Winter Solstice means sun set still in winter.

In Celtic countries such as Ireland the winter solstice is traditionally considered as midwinter, the winter season beginning November 1 on All Hallows or Samhain. Winter ends and spring begins on Imbolc or Candlemas, which is February 1 or 2. This system of seasons is based on the length of days exclusively. The three-month period of the shortest days and weakest solar radiation occurs during November, December and January in the Northern Hemisphere (May-July in the Southern).

Many Midwinter festivals have occurred according to lunar calendars and so, often took place on Höku night (Hawaiian), the night of the full moon closest to the winter solstice. And many solar calendar Midwinter celebrations still center upon December 25th in the north, which was the winter solstice upon the establishment of the Julian calendar.

The difference between the Julian calendar year (365.2500 days) and the tropical year (365.2422 days) moved the day associated with the actual astronomical solstice forward approximately three days every four centuries until 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar bringing the northern winter solstice to around December 21st. In the Gregorian calendar the solstice moves around a bit but in the long term it moves only about one day in 3000 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June Solstice</th>
<th>December Solstice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23:59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>05:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23:09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>05:04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10:51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department of Language Arts/Reading Winter Packet
What special things might happen on or around the winter solstice? Write a story about something that happens (real or imagined) during this special time. **Answers may vary but should include details from passage above.**
“Loved the Book...Not Sure About the Movie”

Many movies that have been released are based on popular children’s and young adult books. The chart below highlights some of the more popular releases. Read the book and then watch the movie. How is the story the same or different? Is the dialogue the same in the movie as the book? Which do you like better and why?

Use the Venn Diagram to help your arrange your information.

**Answers will vary depending on book/movie choice.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title – Date - Author</th>
<th>Movie Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Because of Winn-Dixie (2000) – Kate DiCamillo</td>
<td>Because of Winn-Dixie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1963) – Roald Dahl</td>
<td>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronicles of Narnia (1950) – C. S. Lewis</td>
<td>Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nurse Matilda Stories (2002) – Christiana Brand</td>
<td>Nanny McPhee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Twist – (1867) Charles Dickens</td>
<td>Oliver Twist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pride and Prejudice (1813) – Jane Austin</td>
<td>Pride and Prejudice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Sound of Thunder (1977) – Ray Bradbury</td>
<td>A Sound of Thunder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War of the Worlds (1898) – H. G. Wells</td>
<td>War of the Worlds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zathura: A Space Adventure (2002) – Chris Van Allsburg</td>
<td>Zathura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice in Wonderland (1865) – Lewis Carroll</td>
<td>Alice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the King’s Men (1946) – Robert Penn Warren</td>
<td>All the King’s Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brideshead Revisited (1945) – Evelyn Waugh</td>
<td>Brideshead Revisited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte’s Web (1952) – E. B. White</td>
<td>Charlotte’s Web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Friend Flicka (1941) – Mary O’Hara</td>
<td>Flicka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoot (2002) – Carl Hiaasen</td>
<td>Hoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Eat Fried Worms (1973) – Thomas Rockwell</td>
<td>How to Eat Fried Worms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge to Terabithia (1977) – Katherine Paterson</td>
<td>Bridge to Terabithia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Day with Wilbur Robinson (1990) – William Joyce</td>
<td>Meet the Robinsons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Polar Express (1985), Chris Van Allsburg</td>
<td>The Polar Express</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommended Books for Senior High School Readers

- It’s Not about the Bike: My Journey Back to Life - Lance Armstrong
- Where I’m Bound - Allen Ballard
- Seabiscuit: An American Legend - Laura Hillenbrand
- Abandon in Place - Jerry Oltion
- German Boy: A Refugee’s Story - Wolfgang Samuel
- Passage - Connie Willis
**Senior**

Keep a reading log/journal on the books read and make a list of words you have learned. Write the new word, copy the sentence in which it is used, write a definition using your own words, and draw a picture or symbol which reminds you what the word means. **Answers will vary.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title/Author</th>
<th>New Vocabulary /Sentence</th>
<th>Definition/ Symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Students choose an additional activity for any of the books that you have read from the above list over the break.

- Take a 3x5 card and summarize what happened on one side. On the other, analyze the importance of what happened and the reasons it happened.
- Draw an empty head and inside of it draw any symbols, words, or images that are bouncing around in the mind of the character of a story.
- Make a passport which belongs to one of the characters. Be sure that the document contains all of the information found on an authentic passport.
- Find five Websites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include the web sites and an explanation of why your character would choose these sites.
- Imagine that you are the author of the book you just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. YOU MAY ONLY USE BOOKS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN MADE INTO MOVIES.
- Imagine that the book you are reading has been challenged by a special interest group. Write a letter defending the book, using specific evidence from the book to support your ideas.
- Create a Top Ten List. List ten things you have learned from the book.