



SPARKNotes

Students *Pursuing Advanced Reasoning & Knowledge*

May 6, 2022

From the Director



Our last student lesson was Lyla telling us how to audition for musical theater. She showed us a couple of expensive handmade hats and played clips of her singing in her role as the Cat in the Hat and Luminaire in The Beauty and the Beast.



May Calendar

18 Holocaust Museum Field Trip
20 Graduation Luncheon and Beach Party
25 Student Semester Showcase
26 Last day of classes - Field Day

Lesson Summaries

Science Blue

We finished the last two lessons on Metals, Metalloids, and Nonmetals in Chapter 11 on the Periodic Table. This weekend, the students are researching three different elements and how they are used today.

Science Green

We went more in depth into the periodic table, studying groups, periods, and different categorizations such as Alkali Metals and Halogens. On Wednesday, creating a polymer bouncy ball from household materials. Students learned that following exact instructions and using precise measurements was the key to success in this experiment.

Algebra

Students worked independently this week, completing various lessons in Chapter 8 regarding exponents. We will wrap up Chapter 8 next week and continue through polynomials and exponential functions.

Pre-algebra

This week was spent on Classifying Angles, Angle Pairs, Classifying Triangles, Polygons and Quadrilaterals. The students should study for their Polygons and Quadrilaterals quiz on Tuesday,

Language Arts Blue

As a culmination of all that the students have learned in our Holocaust Unit, they are going to write an essay on the different types of oppression and control, various forms of resistance to injustice, how bystanders may contribute to allowing injustice to continue, and ways to be an upstander and speak up for victims and speak out against cruelty and oppression. They will illustrate these points with examples of how the Terezin camp was a form of creative and cultural resistance and Jewish Rescuers who risked their lives in the name of justice and humanity.

Language Arts Green

We watched the 2010 movie version of The Diary of Anne Frank. Students took notes and compared and contrasted the movie with the script of the play that we read. We also read and discussed an article on various forms of bullying and how to be an upstander instead of a bystander. We related this to Hitler's use of oppression and control and how some people did not agree with him, but did not speak out against his cruelty and how others risked their lives to save Jewish victims who were targets of his "Final Solution."

Social Studies

We spent this week discussing the process of civil cases, from the beginning of an issue to its conclusion in court. To make this relatable, we completed a mock trial using the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." In this case, it was Pop A. Bear and Mom A. Bear vs. Gold E. Locks. Each student was assigned a role in court. We heard their opening statements, testimonies from various witnesses, and closing statements. The jury then voted and Gold E. Locks was found guilty of trespassing and theft (of food), but was exonerated from the charges of property damage (breaking Babe E. Bear's chair) since there was not enough substantial evidence in the case.

Next week, we will have a guest speaker, Sibel Edmonds, talk to the class about her experience working for the FBI after 9/11. She will tie in what we have been learning in language arts about being an upstander, not a bystander, when it comes to seeing injustice and misinformation.