

# Team 8-2 Times



## Language Arts Has the Write Stuff

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By: Casey B.

My name is Casey and I am a student in Mrs. Culmone's class. Since the first day of class she has taught me something new. We already covered so many things in her class. I am writing this to inform you on what we are learning in Mrs. Culmone's Language Arts class.

papers in Language Arts based on *Monster* from Reading.

We also wrote Bio poems. I thought this was really fun to do. When you write a bio poem, you fill in information about yourself to make a poem. We also decorated them to make them reflect our personality. This activity really interested me.

First, since the first day of school we participate in daily writing. Or as I call it "do now." The daily writings are questions that we have to give responses to. Not just one sentence responses 6-7 sentences. I think this a good work-out and really gets the brain going.

We also wrote stories based on fairy tales. They weren't normal fairy tales though. We had to remake them so the "bad guy" was the good guy and vice versa. They were creative and fun to write. I really had to think about changing the perspective.

In reading class, we have been reading the book *Monster*. Reading class and Language Arts are kind of working together. In Language Arts we are looking up vocabulary for monster. When we do the vocab we have to write the definitions and put the part of speech. In addition, we have to write sentences for each word. We are currently writing persuasive

Most people don't like Study Island, but I find it useful. It helps us study and practice for tests. If you do well, this helps your grade because my teacher counts it as a quiz grade.

Lastly we wrote business letters. For our business letters we needed to write to a company about a complaint, request, and even a suggestion. This was an easy project and fun to do. Also it let me express my feelings. This was the best project yet! This is what's happening in Mrs. Culmone's class.



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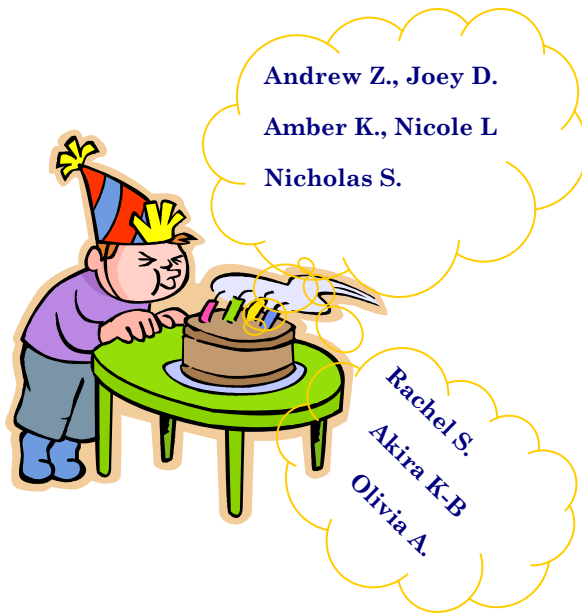
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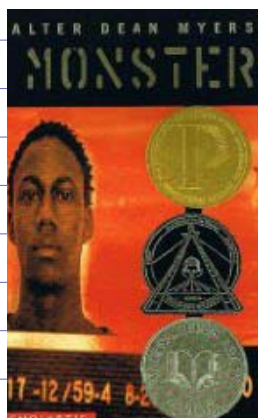
## November Birthdays



# A MONSTER UNLEASHED ON TEAM 8-2

By: Mrs. Nelson

Room 13 was filled with monsters this month...monsters in self, text, and in our community. The purpose was not to scare the students, but rather prepare them for the study of Walter Dean Myers novel, **Monster**. The story was about a teenager who makes bad choices and as a result, winds up on trial for being an accomplice to theft and robbery.



To assist the students with an upcoming persuasive essay regarding the main character's guilt (or innocence) students concentrated on identifying and interpreting supporting details.

We were also very honored to welcome to our school two special guests from the Morris County Corrections Office. Corporal Edwin Santana—a nationally recognized gang expert spoke on the mentality, lifestyle, rituals and characteristics of gang members—which unfortunately also influenced the character. Corporal Lundel shared information about jail life and the mentality of the average inmate. After hearing them speak, the students who initially found Steve a victim, began to see that there could be more to the story!

Racism, one of the many themes of this book, was analyzed as well.

After watching a documentary on the history of discrimination, the students wrote on the possibility of Steve's verdict being influenced by pre-existing prejudices.

Finally, working in groups, students composed lists of choices made by the character. Teaming up, they performed two re-enactments. The first, an original excerpt from the book and the second an original creation—showing how the plot would have changed had the character made a better/worse decision.

In addition to studying this novel, test prep is always being touched upon...Benchmark tests are in the horizon! The next written work being studied is Homer Hickam's memoir **October Sky**. Stay tuned next month for more information...



# Science is Awesome!

By: Amber K.

Mrs. Keating's class has mastered multiple topics in the past month. A few of these topics are...

- Famous Scientists and Inventors
- Using the Bunsen Burner
- States of Matter
- Density
- Buoyancy
- Solubility
- Ductility
- Malleability
- Physical and Chemical Changes

(The class figures out the answer by asking Mrs. Keating questions that can be answered with either yes or no only.)

Answer- John, a cat, knocked over the fishbowl of Mary, a fish.



## Coming Next Month...

**Freezing,  
Melting, Boiling,  
Acidity,  
Condensation,  
Evaporation, and  
Sublimation.**



Stories With Holes by Nathan Levy

John and Mary are on the floor. There are pieces of broken glasses and a puddle of liquid, also on the floor. Mary is dead.

## Meet Some of Our Amazing Students...

### **Haley Z.**

You might find Haley running on the track while listening to Taylor Swift. When she's not reading, Haley is going on adventures like helicopter rides in Hawaii. She could do without snakes and stingrays, but she can run from them as she placed in the track championships.

### **Mark M.**

Like Haley, Mark is also a track star. He loves to play his guitar—among his biggest achievements was playing with his band at Rock the Cure. Not only is Reading a favorite subject in school, it is a relaxing treat outside of school.

### **Rachel Z.**

Taylor Swift is popular among the students in 8-2 because Rebecca is also a fan! You might catch her dancing to "You Belong to Me," or humming the tune while horseback riding. Rachel is an award-winning

dancer who is terrified by spiders!

### **James E.**

James likes music by the Black-eyed Peas. Maybe he'll join the band because his greatest achievement is the creation of his own song! James survived Mrs. Keating's class on Halloween despite her clown costume, as clowns are one of his biggest fears!

### **Nick D.**

Although Nick doesn't feel like the greatest reader, he finds achievement in simply being in 8th grade! His decision to attend public school is the best decision he ever made! You might find Nick playing video games to the music of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

### **Ria M.**

Ria enjoys playing soccer and guitar, her favorite band is *Fall out Boy*. One of the best decisions Ria

has made was getting a cat, however one of her worst decision was attempting to draw while on a ferris wheel. Ria's favorite subject is reading because it comes easy to her, which is quite obvious since he loves reading books.

### **Bri M.**

You can find Bri on the football field cheering for our favorite team, The Gaels. One of her biggest achievements was lifting up a fellow cheerleader with just one hand. She has some advice for the 7th graders, "pay attention in school." Great advice Bri!

### **Danielle A.**

Danielle loves to act and takes pride in making EMS's drama club. She also enjoys running cross country, volleyball, and basketball. Even with so many hobbies, she still finds the time to listen to music and read, "Reading doesn't feel like work to me."

# History Comes Alive

By: Rob R.

This month in social studies we are learning about life in medieval Europe. For example the Black Plague, Hundred Years War along with how they cured medieval diseases. Also, how village people entertained themselves by performing plays and playing various games. Mr. Meola also has a class website ([www.lmeola.wordpress.com](http://www.lmeola.wordpress.com)). On the website homework is posted, along with our weekly current events; we can even blog and discuss the current events with one another.

Another great use of technology is the quia.com website that we now

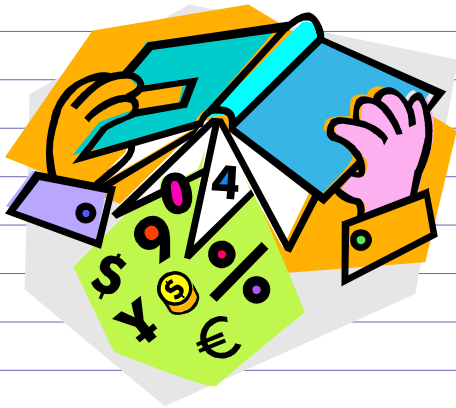
take our tests on, after completing the assessment your score is posted immediately and you can go back over the test to see what you got wrong.

month in social studies. Looking into the future we will be taking part in some experimental activities on the Magna Carta, Black Plague, and Hundred Years War.

Overall, it's been a very exciting



## To Sum it up...



- Finding the GCF and LCM of monomials
- Applying the rules of exponents to simplify expressions
- Working with zero and negative exponents

This month in Algebra, we are discovering the rules of operations on monomials and polynomials. Some of the topics we are learning include:

- Finding powers of monomials
- Multiplying monomials
- Using the distributive property to multiply polynomials
- Solving word problems involving distance, rate, and time
- Using polynomials to solve problems involving area

Topics to look forward to next month:

- In **Pre-Algebra**, prepare to learn how to solve equations involving fractions and decimals, identify equivalent ratios and rates, and solve proportions using a variety of methods.
- In **Algebra**, get ready to factor polynomials of all shapes and sizes :)

By: Miss Allibone

This month in Pre-Algebra we are learning about number theory. Some of the topics we are exploring include:

- Identifying prime numbers
- Writing composite numbers using prime factorization
- Finding the greatest common factor and least common multiple of a set of numbers

