

LITERACY AMI

DAYS 6-10

NOTE: Each assignment in Days 6-10 are related. The text used for days 6 and 7 will be needed for assignments on days 8-10. You will turn the packet in as one set. If you need to take the staple out, be sure to keep up with all the pages. Lastly, on day 10, you may type the prompt on a doc and share with me, if you have a device to do so.

Day Six: Read the informational article on “Skywriting” and complete the questions on the back. Write in sentence form and be sure to cite evidence from the text when the question asks you to.

Day Seven: Read the narrative realistic fiction text “My Dad, the Skywriter.” Complete the questions on the back and answer each question completely. One word answers are not acceptable.

Day Eight: Complete the Vocabulary section related to BOTH Skywriting texts. This is a front/back assignment. On the back you will see some questions on reading genre and summarizing. Fully complete each section.

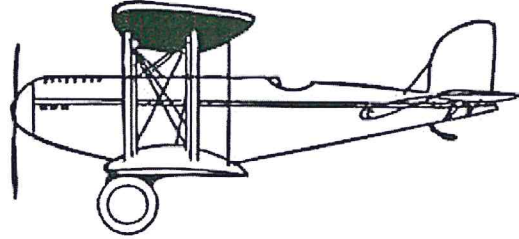
Day Nine: Complete questions 4-13 on the sheet connected to BOTH texts on Skywriting. There are questions on theme, text structure, and text analysis.

Day Ten: Complete persuasive writing task. This needs to be multiple paragraphs. You can handwrite your essay on the hard copy in your packet or if you have a device, you can type it in a document in Google Drive and share it with me.

Day 6 Skywriting

Name: _____

Skywriting with high horsepower planes or cropdusters, is an art that few pilots are able to master. Skywriting takes place two miles above ground and these aerial maneuvers require looping, climbing, and flipping like a roller coaster. This would be challenging enough but all of this takes place while releasing perfectly timed streams of thick, white smoke. Want to send a message? Since it costs at least \$5,000, most of skywriting profits come from business advertising. Where else would messages be seen for more than 2,800 square miles, while attracting people's attention automatically? Skywriting however, wasn't originally invented for business, it started with England's military in World War I.



Although there are two kinds of skywriting, traditional and digital, very few people are able to do traditional, which is something that's learned without any official training program. To do traditional skywriting, a pilot must be able to maneuver quickly and accurately to write legibly on the sky. Keep in mind that he/she will be flying at 150 mph and will be pressed into the seat by G-forces. So, for example, to write the word "PEPSI", with each letter measuring about a mile tall, and writing the letters backwards (so people on the ground can read it), it requires 17 maneuvers in 10 minutes, and this is while flying a plane at the same time!

Ideal weather conditions are a must for skywriting, and pilots look for clear days, so the message will be readable against the sky. It should also be a cool, humid, and windless day, so the message will stay around for 20 minutes or more. To write a message, pilots fly to about 10,000 feet, where the air is calmer and cooler. The cooler air exerts more pressure, which helps hold the smoke together. Pilots can't really see the letters clearly as they fly, and have to feel their way. It could be compared to drawing a picture in the dark.

Skywriting planes carry specialized smoke-emitting systems, which store smoke-producing fluid and move the fluids into the exhaust. The smoke starts as a paraffin-based mineral oil, which is nontoxic and biodegradable. This fluid is stored near the engine, and a plane can typically carry about 30 gallons, which is enough fluid to make up to 12 letters. When the pilot is ready, he/she flips a switch in the cockpit, and a stream of paraffin oil is injected into the plane's exhaust system. When the fluid hits the exhaust pipes, it vaporizes and smoke is released from the plane. Going back to the "PEPSI" example, this word would require the pilot to flip the smoke trigger 14 separate times. Pilot experience and skill is a must, as any type of hesitation can ruin a letter, which ruins the entire message!

Although traditional skywriting takes a truly talented pilot, digital skywriting, sometimes called "skytyping", can be done without inversions and loops, flipping a switch, and split-second decisions. This automated process, developed in the 1940's, is similar to dot-matrix printing, but uses planes. Each letter is made up of individual dots that blend together when seen from a distance. The skytyping planes have the same smoke-producing fluid and machinery as traditional skywriting planes, but use a computer program to trigger the injection of fluid into the exhaust. Typically, five planes are used to make the message and they fly next to each other, equidistant, and at the same altitude, for the entire time it takes to write the message.

1. Why is most skywriting sold as business advertising? _____

2. Why is traditional skywriting more difficult than digital skywriting? _____

3. In the fourth paragraph, the author explained the plane's smoke-emitting system. Cite evidence from the text which explains how the fluid is released as smoke.

4. Compare and contrast skywriting with skytyping:

My Dad, the Skywriter ^{Day 7}

Name: _____

My dad has been flying longer than he's been driving! He actually got his pilot's license when he was 15. At that time, he lived with my grandma and grandpa on their small farm in Iowa. After he grew up, he went to college and got a degree in agriculture, and eventually bought his own farm, a few miles from where he grew up. Since he has always loved to fly, he saved up and bought himself a plane, a 1956 Havilland Chipmunk, to be exact. Sounds really old, I know, but planes aren't the same as cars, and this one was in great shape. At first, my dad had plans to use the plane as a crop duster for his farm, but then he met my mom's uncle, who was a skywriter from way back. My great uncle showed my dad the ropes, and trained him so well, that my dad became a skilled skywriter, which he took on as a second job.

As I was growing up, I loved to hear my dad talk about his plane and about his job as a skywriter. He told me how he took his plane and modified it with a 27-gallon smoke oil system, which allowed him to write about 25 letters in a flight, when most planes can only do 10 letters at the most. He talked about all of the messages he was able to write for people like "Happy Birthday" or "Will you marry me?" or "Congratulations." He also did messages for companies like announcing a big concert coming to town, Pepsi ads for football games, and even one in Japanese! These jobs would usually take him out of town for the day, but since he flew himself everywhere, he wasn't gone for long.

I've been begging him for as long as I can remember to take me on one of his flights. My dad has been hesitant though, and my mom even more so, because it isn't exactly like a regular airplane flight. When he does skywriting, he does quick loops and twists and turns to be able to make all of the letters, which is exactly the reason I want to go! Sounds like a deluxe roller coaster to me!

Since I pestered my dad for so many years, he decided to set a date that I would be able to ride with him and guess what? It's finally here...my 13th birthday! So, I asked him what message we would be writing, but he wouldn't tell me. I also asked him who the client was, and he wouldn't tell me that either. My dad is a stubborn man when he wants to be.

On the day of the flight, we got dressed and had some breakfast and then walked out to the hangar where my dad keeps his plane. He told me that he had already filled it with gas, as well as with the smoke making fluid, which I know costs about twice as much per gallon as gas does. After we buckled up, my dad started the plane and I wasn't sure if the rumbling was from the plane or from the butterflies in my stomach. We took off and rose until we were about two miles off of the ground and then my dad starting flipping switches, while the plane dipped and looped. My dad told me that each letter was about a mile high and took about a minute to make each. It seemed to me that we were spelling something really long, because we were up there for a long time. Sounds like I'm complaining, but I'm not. I loved every minute of it. Once we got off of the ground, I felt like some kind of bird in the air, soaring with the assurance that my dad was the pilot.

When we landed, I couldn't wait to look at the sky. I ran out of the barn and as clear as could be, I saw the message, "Congratulations Teenager!" It was for me and I'll never forget it.

1. In the first paragraph, the author mentions that his dad's plane sounded old but he said that, "...planes aren't the same as cars, and this one was in great shape." What did he mean by that? _____

2. Label these events from 1 – 4 in the order that they occurred:

_____ Saw the message that said "Congratulations Teenager"

_____ Dad told me I could fly with him on my 13th birthday

_____ Dad grew up on a farm in Iowa

_____ Dad bought a plane

3. The author used two idioms. What do each of these idioms mean?

A. Showed him the ropes means: _____

B. Butterflies in my stomach means: _____

4. Was this story told in first or third person? _____

How do you know? _____

5. Make an inference. How does the Skywriter dad feel about his son? Cite examples from the text to support your thinking. _____

6. Think about the setting. How would this story have been different in a big city? _____

Skywriting VOCABULARY

Name: _____

Match these words with Latin/Greek roots to their meanings. Circle the roots for A – E.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. _____ moves requiring skill and care | A. aerial |
| 2. _____ usually | B. maneuvers |
| 3. _____ may be broken down | C. nontoxic |
| 4. _____ not harmful/poisonous | D. biodegradable |
| 5. _____ happening in the sky | E. typically |



Use the word bank to complete these analogies (word comparisons).

WORD BANK				
military	traditional	stubborn	agriculture	altitude

6. New is to old... as modern is to _____
7. Wise is to owl... as _____ is to mule.
8. Distance is to a car... as _____ is to a plane.
9. Student is to school... as soldier is to _____
10. A chef is to the kitchen... as a farmer is to _____

Use the word bank to complete each sentence with two missing words:

WORD BANK					
legibly	official	humid	hesitant	readable	originally

11. Our teacher told us to write _____ so our work would be _____.
12. Even though she was excited, my sister was _____
to open the _____ acceptance letter from the University.
13. My mom was _____ from Oklahoma, and was
used to _____ summers.

Skywriter Paired Texts Questions

Name: _____



1. Fill in the chart:

Text Title	Genre	Genre Evidence
Skywriting		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
My Dad, the Skywriter		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

2. Summarize the Skywriting passage in two to three sentences.

3. Summarize the My Dad, the Skywriter passage in two to three sentences.

4. Which text structure was used for the Skywriting passage? (Circle one)

Description Order and Sequence Cause and Effect Compare and Contrast Problem Solution

What clues gave you this idea? _____

If you wanted to find information on the following topics, which text would you refer to?

Write A for Skywriting and B for My Dad, the Skywriter.

5. _____ Traditional and digital skywriting

6. _____ Types of messages people send

7. _____ How far away messages can be seen

8. _____ How much smoke fluid costs compared to gas

9. _____ How much a message costs

10. The main idea of Skywriting is: _____

11. The theme (lesson the author wants you to know) of My Dad, the Skywriter is:

12. Name at least three pieces of information both texts have in common: _____

13. Which piece did you enjoy more? Why? _____

SKYWRITER PERSUASIVE WRITING

Name: _____

Currently, pilots are able to get their license at age 17. Do you think this age is reasonable? Write a persuasive piece explaining your opinion whether the age of 17 is too young, too old, or just right to be able to fly a plane on your own.

[illegible]

