**Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Monday, March 11, 2013**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Main Idea**  There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than the platypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Males carry a venom cocktail in their ankle spurs that incapacitates victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. What this means is that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricity produced by the muscular movements of its prey. The platypus neither sees, hears, nor smells its prey while hunting but, rather, pursues it through electroreception. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. The platypus is an odd creature indeed.  **Which statement best supports the main idea of the passage?**   1. There are few venomous mammals. 2. The platypus is one of the few venomous mammals. 3. The platypus cannot see, hear, nor smell its prey. 4. The platypus lays eggs. | **Vocabulary**  Our cafeteria was serving the same **mundane** menu as yesterday; we never have anything new or exciting to choose from.  **What is the meaning of the word “mundane” in the selection above?**  **What is one clue that helped you determine the meaning?** |
| **Figurative Language: True or False**  **Write T if the definition is true, or write F if the definition is false.**  \_\_\_\_ Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds in the middle of words.  \_\_\_\_\_ “Her hair is as shiny as ebony” is an example of a metaphor.  \_\_\_\_\_\_ “He is as strong as an ox” is an example of a simile.  \_\_\_\_\_ Personification is the name given to a term giving human qualities to non-living things.  \_\_\_\_\_ “Dr. Falce’s Fantastic, Fabulous, Fourth-Graders” is an example of onomatopoeia. | **Conventions**  1) What do most adults do when they come home from work? To unwind, they often watch a half-hour of television. What they often didn’t realize is that going to school can be stressful, too, and watching TV helped students relax after a hard day of learning. 2) Personally, after school I like to go to the park or play games, or basketball with my friends. 3) However, when my friends have other obligations and I had to keep myself amused without her, I am often tempted to turn on the television.  **Rewrite section 1 of the passage correcting any mistakes.** |

**Tuesday March 12, 2014**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Main idea**  **Not all plants grow in the same way. Some plants grow and reproduce in one year and are called annuals. Some plants grow and reproduce in two years and are called biennials. Other plants grow and reproduce for many years and are called perennials.**  **What is the main idea of the passage above?**   1. Other plants grow and reproduce for many years. 2. Some plants are called biennials. 3. Not all plants grow in the same way. 4. Some plants grow and reproduce in one year and are called annuals. | **Vocabulary**  Dozens of nurses and doctors tried to **mollify** the patient, but he was too frantic and distressed about his injuries.  **What does the word “mollify” mean in the sentence above?**  **What is one clue that helped you determine the meaning?** |
| **Grammar: Lose vs. Loose**  **Complete each sentence using “lose” or “loose.”**  1. Pizza for lunch was such a treat that Clifford refused to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his place in the cafeteria line—even though all of his money was in the car.  2. Clarissa ducked into a doorway, for the strong wind was blowing her long, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hair onto her double scoops of rocky road ice cream.  3. Gabrielle doesn't want to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her locker key, so she wears it on her charm bracelet, where it jingles with a diamond-eyed poodle, a gold skate, and an emerald-studded four-leaf clover.  4. The dog ran wildly around the neighborhood when it got \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from its owner’s yard. | **Conventions**  1) What do most adults do when they come home from work? To unwind, they often watch a half-hour of television. What they often didn’t realize is that going to school can be stressful, too, and watching TV helped students relax after a hard day of learning. 2) Personally, after school I like to go to the park or play games, or basketball with my friends. 3) However, when my friends have other obligations and I had to keep myself amused without her, I am often tempted to turn on the television.  **Rewrite section 2 of the passage correcting any mistakes.** |

**Wednesday, March 13, 2013**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Making Inferences**  Cassie rolled over in her bed as she felt the sunlight hit her face. The beams were warming the back of her neck when she slowly realized that it was a Thursday, and she felt a little too good for a Thursday. Struggling to open her eyes, she looked up at the clock. “9:48,” she shouted, “Holy cow!” Cassie jumped out of bed, threw on the first outfit that she grabbed, brushed her teeth in two swipes, threw her books into her backpack, and then ran out the door.  **What is Cassie’s problem?**  **Where is she going?** | **Vocabulary**  The general wanted the information to be passed on precisely and accurately. He felt orders to the soldiers should be repeated **verbatim**.  **The best meaning for the word “verbatim” in this passage is:**   1. summary 2. exactly 3. in their own words 4. imprecisely   **What is one clue that helped you determine the meaning?** |
| **Grammar: Whose vs. Who’s**  **Complete the sentences using “whose” or “who’s.”**  1. Give that glass of cold water to Stephen, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ determined to finish the entire bowl of squid eyeball stew.  2. Stephen, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mouth burned after a big spoonful of the piping hot stew, grabbed the glass of cold water and took a long drink.  3. Up and down the long hallway paces Julio, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hoping that Mrs. Abbot will give him one more extension for the research essay when she returns to her office. | **Conventions**  1) What do most adults do when they come home from work? To unwind, they often watch a half-hour of television. What they often didn’t realize is that going to school can be stressful, too, and watching TV helped students relax after a hard day of learning. 2) Personally, after school I like to go to the park or play games, or basketball with my friends. 3) However, when my friends have other obligations and I had to keep myself amused without her, I am often tempted to turn on the television.  **Rewrite section 3 of the passage correcting any mistakes.** |

**Thursday, March 14, 2013**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Making Inferences**  Kyle ran into his house and slammed the door behind him. He paused with his back to the wall and tried to catch his breath. The puppy in his coat struggled to get out. Kyle looked out the window worriedly, but he saw that nobody was coming. Then he let the puppy out of his jacket. The puppy yelped while Kyle took the collar off of him. He threw the collar in an old soup can in the trash, carefully flipping over the can. The dog looked around nervously.  **Why is Kyle out of breath?**  **Why does Kyle put the collar in a soup can and flip it over?** | **Vocabulary**  **Scathing**, sarcastic, and hurtful remarks were made about the captain of the cheerleaders  **In the passage what does “scathing” mean?**  A) hilarious  B) kind  C) funny  D) mocking  **What is one clue that helped you determine the meaning?** |
| **Grammar: Whoever vs. Whomever**  **Complete the sentences below using “whoever” or “whomever.”**  1. Sherry will share her juicy bit of gossip with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ she finds in the cafeteria.  2. Jennifer will share her big bag of Hot Cheetos with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sits beside her in the cafeteria.    3. Mom says that she is withholding allowance from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ left all of those wet towels on the bathroom floor.  4. Joey will welcome \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the coach picks to join the team, even if he doesn’t choose Joey’s best friend. | **Editing**  In many stories, characters travel in order to gain a better understanding of themselves. In gulliver’s Travels, a novel by a irishman named Jonathan Swift, Lemuel Gulliver embarks upon a fantastic journey that provides him with fascinating insights about Europeans and hisself.  **Rewrite the passage above, correcting any mistakes.** |

**Friday March 15, 2013**

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| **Skills and Strategies: Fact or Opinion**  **Write F for Fact or O for opinion**    \_\_\_\_\_ On average, college graduates earn more money in their lifetime than those with only a high school diploma.  \_\_\_\_\_ Filet mignon tastes better than Easy Mac.  \_\_\_\_\_ People who graduate college are smarter than people who drop out of high school.  \_\_\_\_\_ There are more calories in a Frappuccino from Starbucks than in a single Snickers bar. | **Vocabulary**  Grandmother was always **fastidious** about our appearance. She never let us go out to play without making certain our faces were clean and our outfits were matching.  **What does the word “fastidious” mean?**  **What are some clues that helped you determine the meaning?** |
| **Figurative Language**  Identify the type of figurative language in each sentence. Write “I” for idioms, or “M” for metaphors.  \_\_\_\_\_ My little sister is a monster when she hasn’t had a nap.  \_\_\_\_\_ I was sick as a dog on the day of the test.  \_\_\_\_\_ You are the sunshine of my life.  \_\_\_\_\_ She was on top of the world when she got an A on her midterm. | **Editing**  **Which sentence is punctuated correctly? EXPLAIN!**   1. “I love chili,” explained Justin, “but only Texas red style chili.” 2. “I love chili, explained Justin, but only Texas red style chili.” 3. “I love chili.” explained Justin, “but only Texas red style chili”. 4. “I love chili,” explained Justin. But only Texas red style chili. |