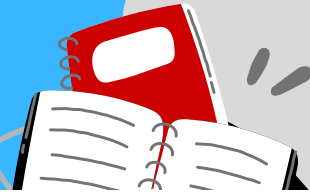


Davidson Fine Arts

7th Grade ELA

Summer Work



Teacher	Mrs. Sadenwasser
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Grade level	7 th Grade
Subject	English Language Arts
School year	2026-2027

Hello, Rising Seventh-Graders!

Greetings to all incoming 7th Graders! I am very excited to meet you all and have you in my class for the 2026-2027 school year! We will start the year working with the book *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake. You can access a PDF of the entire book using the QR code on the second page, or you may purchase your own copy. Please contact me if you have questions. I will check my email occasionally throughout the summer. **School starts on Tuesday, August 4th, so your work is due no later than Friday, August 7th.** I think you will enjoy *The Skin I'm In*, and I look forward to us working with it in August.

Supplies - You will need these supplies for language arts:

- notebook paper
- 5 dividers
- pencils & blue- or black-ink pens
- 1-inch binder
- earbuds
- tissues are always appreciated!

Summer Reading Assignment - Below are the expectations for reading *The Skin I'm In*.

Goal	Expectation
Reading Comprehension	Read the book closely for narrative techniques such as plot, character, theme, conflict, and setting.
Reading for Poetic Techniques	Read the novel closely to identify and explain the literal meaning of the poetic techniques, such as imagery, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification.

Assignment Expectations - There are four parts to your summer work.

1. Identify the **poetic techniques** that Sharon G. Flake uses in her novel.
2. **Read the book** with the poetic techniques in mind.
3. Write a **monologue poem**.
4. Write **your letter** to one of the characters.

1. Poetic Techniques Activity

One of the most enjoyable experiences of reading *The Skin I'm In* is the poetic devices used in the dialogue and narration. Before you read the book, read this chart so that you can identify and document these poetic techniques as you encounter them in the text.

Imagery	Vivid sensory details help the reader see, hear, smell, taste, or feel what's happening.
Example	The kitchen smelled of warm cinnamon and bright lemons, sunlight pooling on the counter.
Page number and example from the novel	
Create your own example of imagery.	
Simile	Comparing two unlike things using "like" or "as."
Example	He moved through the crowd like a shadow slipping between trees.
Page number and example from the novel	
Create your own simile.	
Alliteration	Repetition of initial consonant sounds in nearby words.
Example	He moved through the crowd like a shadow slipping between trees.
Page number and example from the novel	
Create your own alliteration.	

2. Read the Book

I recommend that you purchase your own copy of *The Skin I'm In*, but if you do not have one, scan the code to the right for a PDF of the book.

I hope you enjoy reading about Maleeka Madison!



<https://tinyurl.com/3u854nyx>

3. Monologue Poem

A **monologue poem** is a poem where one character or person talks directly to you, the reader. It's like they're sharing their thoughts and feelings out loud. You get to be inside someone else's head!

Select a character from *The Skin I'm In* and consider these things:

- **Tone** – Is your speaker angry, sad, hopeful, bitter, playful, wise?
- **Perspective** – What does this person/character know? What don't they know?
- **Speech patterns** – Does your speaker use formal language, slang, repetition, or short/long sentences?
- **Motivation** – Why are they speaking? What do they want the reader to understand?

Decide on a Topic or Situation

- a specific moment or memory
- a confession or secret
- an explanation or justification
- a warning or plea
- their feelings about someone or something
- a reflection on their life or circumstances

Handwrite your monologue.

- You may write using **free verse** – no rhyme scheme or meter; **or rhymed** – Include rhyming lines for rhythm.
 - Use **poetic techniques** such as those you read in the novel.
 - Your poem must contain **at least ten lines**.
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4. Letter to a character

Handwrite a two-page letter to one of the characters in *The Skin I'm In*.

Make sure to do the following:

- Tell the character a little about yourself.
- Explain to the character how your community is similar to or different from the character's community.
- Express your feelings and opinions about an event(s) in the book and about what happened to the character.
- Make sure to include specific details from the story and identify the chapter the details come from. Include any questions you have for the character, as well. Take care with your spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

"Two pages" means you may write on two sides of one piece of paper, or you may write on one side of two pieces of paper.