

Quarter 3 Extra Credit! No Form Filled, No Credit Given!

Dear Parents,

Below is information regarding the only official opportunities for extra credit. Students will attach their assignments that they would like to be credited toward their classes to this sheet with one staple in the top left corner.

Extra credit will be offered only during the following dates for each quarter:

Quarter 1: over the Columbus Day Holiday, to be due by 10/17

Quarter 2: over Thanksgiving break, to be due by 12/5

Quarter 3: over the Presidents Day holiday due by 2/20/09 (except Spelling— must be handed in by 2/18 for the test)

Quarter 4: over Spring Break: due by 4/16/09

Please know that I want the best for students and to give opportunities to shine in our classroom, but I also need students to be responsible for their normal assignments. I don't want them to rely on extra credit, which in itself only helps a little bit. What truly helps a student is hard work and being disciplined to do it.

- Mrs. Todd

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Student Name: _____

I have completed the following assignment(s) for extra credit for (Circle which quarter)

Quarter 3

Quarter 4

(Check which subject each assignment is completed for).

_____ Science _____ Bible _____ Math _____ Reading

_____ Spelling _____ English _____ History

Parent's Signature

Quarter 3 Extra Credit! Language directions and Bible Verse

Language: After reading the attached document about Lemony Snickett's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, "Unhappy Endings":

- ⇒ write in complete sentences the answers to the readers response and writer's response questions.
- ⇒ look up and write the definition of the four "Words to Know".
- ⇒ Next read the "From the Writer" Section and
- ⇒ Write a book review on a book that you have already read.

Verse to memorize for extra credit due 2/20:

Matthew 13: 1-9 NIV

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed.

As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil.

It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

Quarter 3 Extra Credit! Language:

Persuasive 10

No Happy Endings?

Why Lemony Snicket isn't as bad as he claims

Books for kids are supposed to be **uplifting**. They're supposed to teach children valuable lessons. They're supposed to help kids learn how to get along in the world. They're supposed to have characters that set an example and above all to have happy endings.

Now along comes not just one, but a whole series of children's books that claims to do nothing of the sort. These books feature terrible things being done to children by terrible people. The author even promises that "...the book you are holding in your hands is extremely unpleasant. It tells an unhappy tale about three very unlucky children."

You probably know that the series in question is *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, written by a mysterious person named Lemony Snicket. You may even have seen the movie version of his first book, *A Bad Beginning*. There are now 11 of the books out of 13 promised. They have titles such as *The Miserable Mill* and *The Vile Village*. All of them follow the misadventures of the Baudelaire children, Violet, 14, Klaus, 12, and baby Sunny.

In the first chapter of the first book, the Baudelaires learn they are orphans. Their parents have **perished** in a terrible fire. They are sent to live with a distant relative, Count Olaf, who is not only strange, but also clearly evil. The children have been left a huge fortune, and Olaf schemes to get his hands on it.

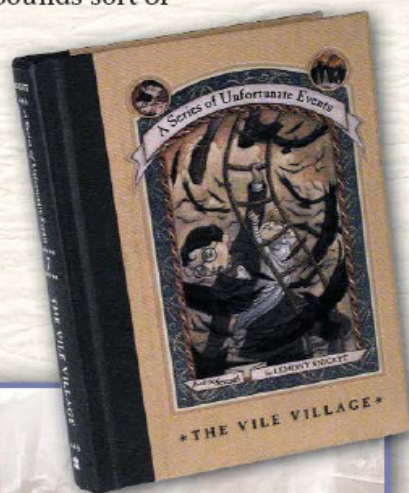
Role Models?

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny are very unlucky, just as the author promises. Yet somehow they manage to escape from every plot hatched against them. They do this with no help from grown-ups, who never believe the children when they try to get help. No, the Baudelaire kids are forced to rely on themselves.

Sunny, Violet, and Klaus win out over nasty adults. Watch out for Sunny, though. She bites!

They each have a talent. Violet is great at inventing gadgets. Klaus is an expert at research. And Sunny? Well, Sunny is good at biting things really, really hard. With their combined skills and a little luck, the three children always manage to scrape by, no matter what evil adults try to do to them. Somehow, the Baudelaires have managed to survive through 11 books.

The Lemony Snicket series is popular because it's original, it's fun, and it avoids the traps of "goody-goody" children's literature. It's not **sentimental**, and it pits the young heroes against the adult world. But is it really a series of unhappy tales? Not really. In his own sneaky way, Lemony Snicket has come up with kid heroes who stick together, never give up, and win out over the odds every time. Sounds sort of uplifting, right? In fact, it almost sounds like the sort of book that's good for you. But don't worry, we won't tell anyone if you won't.



FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/CREAM/ORBIS

Quarter 3 Extra Credit! Language Continued

No Happy Endings?

Understanding the Criteria for Review Writing

Reader's Response

- 1 What is this author's attitude toward "uplifting" books? What suggests this?
- 2 Is the Lemony Snicket series popular with kids? What suggests this?
- 3 Why do you think many kids find the Lemony Snicket books so appealing?

Writer's Response

- 1 Why has the author repeated the phrase "They're supposed to," in the first paragraph?
- 2 How and why does the author return to the idea of uplifting books in the conclusion?

Be the Writer

Think of a book you especially enjoyed. Why did you like it so much? Were its characters inspiring or realistic? Did the action have you on the edge of your seat? Did it make you think about new issues? Write a review of the book, evaluating its strengths. Tell just enough about it to interest readers without giving too much of the plot or ending away.

Words to Know

uplifting perished
version sentimental

From the Writer

You have just finished a book—it is your new favorite! You can't wait to recommend it to someone. A book review is an excellent way to tell people your reaction to a book and help them decide if they want to read it. What should your review contain?

First, you should write an introduction that grabs attention and gives some basic information. In the review "No Happy Endings?" the author "hooks" readers by telling them the books to be reviewed are not good for them. He goes on to summarize what the series is about and very briefly introduces the main characters. By this time, readers are quite curious about what happens to the orphaned main characters.

Next, your book review should move to a discussion of elements such as character, plot, or setting in order to show why and how the author succeeds in writing a great book. This reviewer focuses on action and character, explaining how the author has created self-reliant, resourceful characters who manage to survive repeated evil attacks against them. He states that the series is original, fun, and refreshingly hard-edged.

Conclude your review with a restatement of the point readers should understand. For the Lemony Snicket series, that point is that the characters are appealing, original, and also good role models.

Quarter 3 Extra Credit! Science, History, Math and Spelling:

Current Events:

Based on p. 207 in your Science Book, Create a current event notebook:

Identify current events that involve changes in ecosystems.

Procedure:

1. Look through newspapers and news magazines and cut out any articles that are about an ecosystem. Listen to news reports, if you hear one about an ecosystem, record the date and time of the report and write a brief description about what was said
2. Organize your articles and information into a notebook. (use a binder or a folder with tabs). Arrange the notebook in a logical way. You might want to group your news reports by topic, type of event, date, or geographical location. Be sure to include a table of contents in your notebook.

This notebook will be graded for both Science and History. Part of your grade will be to present your information on the ecosystems.

Math Extra Credit:

P. 344 in your math book– The word problems in the supplementary exercises section. Be sure that you do your work on a separate sheet of paper. You need to get a 85% or above on the word problems to get full extra credit.

Spelling List: In order to get full extra credit: you must get an 85% or better on the extra credit test on 2/18. Remember, if you did not fill out the form and turn it in by 2/18, no extra credit will be given.

AMBASSADOR	AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	BALLOT	CABINET
CAMPAIGN	CANDIDATE	CITIZENSHIP	COMMITTEE	CONGRESS
CONSERVATIVE	CONSTITUTION	COURT	DEMOCRACY	ELECTION
EMBASSY	EXECUTIVE	FEDERAL	GOVERNMENT	HOUSE
INAUGURATED	JONAH	JUDICIAL	LEGISLATIVE	LIBERAL
MAJORITY	MICAH	NOMINEE	PARLIAMENT	QUORUM
REPRESENTATIVES	VETO	REPUBLIC	SENATE	SUPREME
TREASURY	UNANIMOUS			