

7th Grade Language Arts Distance Learning Assignment
Week 3

A Note to Parents

This week, your student will read another poem titled "[What My Father Said](https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/what-my-father-said)" by Alan King .

(<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/what-my-father-said>) In this poem, a boy wants to play with his friends but his father puts him to work.

This text relates to the themes of [Friendship & Family](#) and [Social Pressure](#). Consider discussing with your child the following questions: "What are the effects of following the crowd?" and "What makes a family?"

Ways to support your child:

- Ask your child about this poem at home:
 - What was "[What My Father Said](#)" About
 - What did you learn about? About [Social Pressure](#)?
- Watch the following clips with your child at home:
 - '[Tips for Dealing with Disappointment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vcvFPtG4No)' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vcvFPtG4No>)
 - '[Why I listen to my parents\(more\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIBY9NjhdJM)' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIBY9NjhdJM>)

Day 1, Activity 1: Vocabulary in Context

Step 1: Review the vocabulary word, context sentence, picture, and definition.

Step 2: Describe how the context sentence and photograph give hints toward the meaning of the word. Be specific; you must include either specific words from the context sentence or details from the photograph in your answer.

1. Coordinate

I have horrible hand-eye coordination; I've never been able to catch a football or throw something to hit a target.

Definition: to arrange, select, or organize things so that they work well together toward a common goal

Explanation of Context: _____



I Some think that this Japanese couple are peak relationship goals. Married for 37 years, they always wear coordinating outfits.

2. Interrogate

Mom's interrogative tone made me think she didn't believe me when I said I stayed after school to study.

Definition: to question for a long time for an official purpose

Explanation of Context: _____



2 The police interrogated the suspect about where he was at the time of the crime.

3. **Accuse**

The teacher accused the girl of cheating on the test.

Definition: to say that someone has done something wrong or illegal

Explanation of Context: _____



3 Sam was tired of his girlfriend's constant accusations.

Day 1, Activity 2: Journal Response

Discuss a time when you disagreed with a decision your parents, teacher, or another adult made that ended up being correct. How did you feel then? How do you feel about the decision today?

Day 2: Active Reading

Today, you are reading another poem. Use the following steps excerpted from *Teach For America* to read and analyze this poem.

1. **Read** the poem all the way through, at LEAST twice. *At the end of the poem, write your first impressions or immediate thoughts—positive or negative.
2. Determine who the **speaker** of the poem is. *Annotate any lines that give this away in the passage with your thoughts.
3. Go through the poem again *line-by-line* and translate or **paraphrase** what the speaker is saying in “real talk.” *Jot notes in the margins.
4. Get to the core of what the poem is about by identifying its **theme**. The theme of the poem relates to a universal truth or issue. Consider the following questions when thinking about the theme:
 - a. What is the subject?
 - b. What does the speaker feel about the subject?
 - c. What is the mood of the poem?

*Write a sentence about the theme somewhere toward the end of the poem.

Name: _____ Class: _____

What My Father Said

By Alan King
2017

Alan King is a Caribbean American, whose parents emigrated from Trinidad and Tobago to the U.S. In this poem, a boy wants to play with his friends, but is put to work by his dad. As you read, take notes on how the speaker feels about his dad.

- [1] It was the day I helped dad
clean out the shed, when Sly, Jay Bird
and Rashad darted to our fence
and, still panting, said
[5] they needed a fullback¹
for our neighborhood league.

Back then, we'd snag any open turf.
Uniforms were street clothes
our parents bought the year before.

- [10] It was the Saturday of our fantasy
playoffs, two teams of teens
whose lack of coordination meant
the ball slipped through shaky hands
like our chances of making the school squad.

- [15] We dreamed of screaming stadiums,
cheerleaders boogying their beautiful bodies,
fans stomping the stands every time
one of us dove toward the end zone.
We were at that age when bragging rights
[20] shined brighter than Super Bowl rings.

They asked if I could kick up the field with them.
I frizzled when dad said, No, he's busy.
That was the Saturday Mrs. Brown mulched
her rose bush and Mr. Graham set sprinklers
[25] in a lawn that looked like AstroTurf.

That was the day I heard my boys
laugh two yards over, yelling touch down!



"Childhood Playground" by Chris Brown is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

1. An offensive position for a player in football

I went back inside the shed to help dad
move a spool of fat cables
[30] before I saw black billows of smoke
over the shed before Mrs. Brown and

Mr. Graham called us out
to see a planted torch blazing
near the two struck matches.

[35] I watched Sly and Jay Bird break
under the sun's interrogative² gaze. I watched
angry fingers aim blame at one another.
I watched, grateful dad said no,
that accusations weren't huddled over me,
[40] screaming: *Why you lying! You know
you set that fire!*

I lay in the grass, watching
my friends' parents whip them.
Rashad cried loud enough to scatter birds
[45] from the lamp posts. That's
when I ran home.

"What My Father Said" from Point Blank by Alan King. Copyright © 2017. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Day 3, Activity 1: Vocabulary Practice

Step 1: Fill in the blanks using the correct vocabulary word to complete each scenario. *You may have to change the form of the word (ex: go, going, gone).*

Step 2: Explain why the vocabulary word best fits based on context clues provided in the scenario.

Example: Every single day, Bryan wakes up at 5 o'clock in the morning to take a 10-mile jog. Then, he goes to the gym to lift weights. Afterwards, he does 20 laps in the pool. And this is before he goes to practice with the team every afternoon! Bryan is **relentless** about training because **he is extremely dedicated and exercises all of the time.**

Coordinate Interrogate Accuse

1. When Grayson was shopping in the store, the store keeper confronted him telling him he had shoplifted a candy bar. It wasn't until Grayson showed the shopkeeper his empty pockets did he get a chance to leave the store.

Grayson was falsely _____ because _____

2. When Brittany showed up to pick up her date, her date's dad asked her a million questions about her driver's license, her grades in school, and what they were planning to do on the date.

Brittany was _____ because _____

- To complete the group project, Jayden had to call the other group members, make sure they all knew which parts to do, collect the individual parts of the assignment from the group members, and put them together in a way that made the whole project look whole.

Jayden had to _____ because _____

Day 3, Activity 2: Shift

A lot of poetry has a shift where either the circumstances or the speaker’s feelings change. A shift happens in this poem around line 30. Complete the graphic organizer below to demonstrate your understanding of what shifted in this particular poem.

	The Speaker’s Feelings/Thoughts at the Beginning of the Poem	The Event that Changed the Speaker’s Feelings	The Speaker’s Feelings/Thoughts at the End of the Poem
Description/Explanation			
Lines from Poem to Support			

Complete the following Text-Dependent Questions for Day 4, Activity 1.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which statement expresses the main theme of the poem?
 - A. Working hard is more important than playing with friends.
 - B. It can be dangerous to be careless.
 - C. Friends often turn on each other during conflict.
 - D. Parents often know best, even when we think they don't.

2. PART B: Which detail from the poem best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "We were at that age when bragging rights / shined brighter than Super Bowl rings." (Lines 19-20)
 - B. "I went back inside the shed to help dad / move a spool of fat cables" (Lines 28-29)
 - C. "I watched, grateful dad said no, / that accusations weren't huddled over me" (Lines 38-39)
 - D. "Why you lying! You know / you set that fire!" (Lines 40-41)

3. PART A: What does it mean that the speaker "frizzled" in Line 22?
 - A. He is upset that he can't join his friends.
 - B. He is overheating from all his hard work.
 - C. He is embarrassed by his father's words.
 - D. He is shocked by his father's words.

4. PART B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "They asked if I could kick up the field with them." (Line 21)
 - B. "That was the Saturday Mrs. Brown mulched / her rose bush" (Lines 23-24)
 - C. "That was the day I heard my boys / laugh two yards over, yelling touch down!" (Lines 26-27)
 - D. "before I saw black billows of smoke / over the shed before Mrs. Brown" (Lines 30-31)

5. How does the speaker's attitude towards not being able to play with his friends change?

Day 4, Activity 2: Application of Vocabulary

Answer each question in 1-2 complete sentences. Make sure that you use the underlined vocabulary word in your answer.


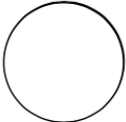
1. How would you coordinate with other friends to throw a surprise party for a friend?

2. What are some strategies for staying cool during an interrogation by your parents or teacher?

3. Why is it important to know all the facts before you accuse someone of a crime?

Day 5, Activity 1: What My Father Said on IG

Use the template below to create an Instagram profile and post for the speaker of the poem “What My Father Said.” Be sure to capture the essence of the speaker of the poem at the time of his post and his feelings at the conclusion of the poem. Include an appropriate handle (or username), picture, caption, and clever hashtags.

 Instagram			
	POSTS	FOLLOWERS	FOLLOWING
	NAME:		
POST:			
CAPTION:			