Gift of Writing

Tis the season of holiday giving; what better gift for a 7th grader to give than something that comes from the heart. Often times we are overwhelmed with buying gifts of great monetary value. Ironically, the gifts we tend to be remember most are the ones of least monetary value. These gifts are given from the heart, which is priceless. For your last writing project before the holiday season, you are going to be creating a gift that comes from the heart, a gift of writing.

**Objective:** You will write some kind of a story, poem, or memory for someone special in your life. What you create and what you say is completely up to you but it MUST BE ORIGINAL (written by YOU). In addition, you will be presenting this gift in a special envelope. That envelope will be decorated with quotations, words, and sentences that represent this special person.

**Format:** You will have the freedom of choice to decide what kind of a writing project you would like to present to your special audience member. Here are some ideas to get you started: letter, poem, personal narrative, fictional story, fable, poetry, children’s book, comic strip, and the list goes on. Please get your project pre-approved by Mrs. Fern-Denzer before you start the composition stage. Your gift of writing will go inside the envelope.

**How will you be assessed?**

* You need to have evidence that you followed all five stages of the writing process and that your project improved significantly with each stage.
* Your writing must support the task (be creative), purpose (share writing with someone else), and audience (appropriate for recipient).
* You must demonstrate understanding of figurative language and use it correctly.
* You must demonstrate use of the writing trait “Voice” by writing in a way that shows your personality, drawing from thoughts and feelings.
* Your writing (GOW and envelope) are in the final draft stage (no errors).

The Package (Envelope)

What will be on the envelope?

1. **Three epithets** – brainstorm three nouns in place of the recipient’s name.
2. **Three quotations** - pick quotes that specifically relate to the recipient of your GOW. Be creative and think about what makes that person unique and special. Take time to find a quote that is deserving of them and embraces who they are as a person. You can find these quotes on the internet or in books, but you must be able to source who said the quote. Example; “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” -Mother Teresa
3. **Three adjective or adjective phrases** – use this key language part to describe the recipient of your gift. (Examples: uproariously funny, sneaky, positive, encouraging, supportive, young at heart, lives on the edge).
4. **Three words or phrases which refer to a fond memory you share with this person.** (Examples: Bear in our campsite!, Watching sunsets… Picking weeds together. “Sit still, will ya?” Attending *Catching Fire* at the midnight showing!)
5. **Three similes –** What is a simile you ask? We will go over this in a mini lesson, but the short and sweet definition is: using the words *like* or *as* to compare two things (person, place, animal, object). Example: You are as sweet as chocolate.
6. **Three metaphors –** A what? A metaphor is another type of figurative language but this time it compares two things (person, place, animal, or object) without using like or as. You refer to the two things as being one or becoming one. Example: You are a beacon of light guiding me to safety.
7. **One hyperbole** – brainstorm an outrageous exaggeration to emphasizes a point (can be ridiculous, funny, or sweet).
8. **One symbol** – A symbol is something that stands for something else. When you think of your recipient, what do you think of?

All wording and sentences should be typed or “lifted” from newspaper or magazine print. If you are using google, please use creative and fun fonts and a variety of colors. Make sure your font size is appropriate for the size of the envelope and leave enough room for all of the requirements. Try to have a variety of sizes so that your finished product will be appealing to the eye. You will then neatly arrange and glue the wording to both sides of your envelope. Don’t be afraid to use other embellishments or pictures to help enhance the final look of your package. Remember, your envelope will be the first impression of your heartfelt and thoughtful gift of writing.