

 SCHOLASTIC

**BETWEEN
GRADES
7&8**

SUMMER EXPRESS

TM

VOCABULARY • GRAMMAR • WRITING • READING • MATH

 SCHOLASTIC

**BETWEEN
GRADES
7&8**

SUMMER EXPRESS

TM

Summer Express Between Grades 7 & 8 © Scholastic Teaching Resources

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Dear Parent:



Congratulations! You hold in your hands an exceptional educational tool that will give your child a head start into the coming school year.

Inside this book, you will find one hundred practice pages that will help your middle schooler review and learn math, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and so much more! *Summer Express* is divided into ten weeks, with two practice pages for each day of the week, Monday to Friday. However, feel free to use the pages in any order that your child likes. Here are a few features you will find inside:

- Suggestions for fun, creative **learning activities** you can do with your child each week.
- A weekly **journal entry sheet** so that your middle schooler can record his or her goals for the week as well as respond to the journal entries.
- A **recommended reading list** of age-appropriate books that you and your middle schooler can read throughout the summer.
- A **certificate of completion** to celebrate your middle schooler's accomplishments.

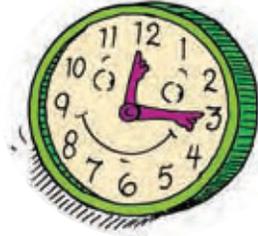
We hope you and your middle schooler will have fun as you work together to complete *Summer Express*!

Enjoy!
The Editors



Terrific Tips for Using This Book

1 Decide on a good time of day for your child to work on the activities. You may want your child to do them around mid-morning or early afternoon when he or she is not too tired.



2 Make sure your middle schooler has all the supplies he or she needs, such as a ruler, pencils, erasers, and markers. Set aside a special place for your child to work.

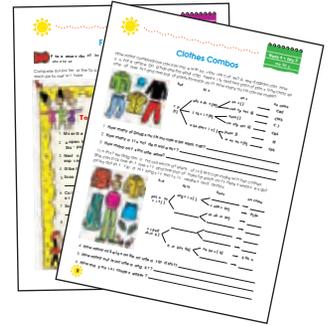


3 At the beginning of each week, discuss how many minutes a day your child plans to read. We recommend that a student entering the eighth grade read 45 minutes to 1 hour a day, including any time spent on required summer reading and projects.



4 Reward your middle schooler's efforts with free time for video games, texting, or his or her favorite pastime. Set a goal for the week and a reasonable reward for achieving the goal.

5 Encourage your middle schooler to complete each worksheet, but do not force the issue. While you may want to ensure that your child succeeds, it is also important to maintain a positive and relaxed attitude toward school and learning.



6 After you have given your middle schooler a few minutes to look over the practice pages, ask what his or her plan is for completing the pages.

Hearing the explanation aloud can provide insight into his or her thinking processes. At this point, you can decide if your child can complete the work independently or needs guidance. If he or she needs support, present choices about which family member he or she might work with. Providing choices can help boost confidence and encourage your child to take more ownership of the work to be done.

7 When your child has finished the workbook, why not present the certificate of completion on page 141 at a family gathering or dinner at his or her favorite restaurant?





Skill-Building Activities for Any Time

The following activities are designed to complement the ten weeks of practice pages in this book. These activities do not take more than a few minutes to complete. Use them to turn otherwise idle time into productive time—for example, standing in a line at a store or waiting at the bus stop. It's a great way to practice key skills and have fun together at the same time.

Finding Real-Life Connections

One of the reasons for schooling is to help children function in the real world, to empower them with the abilities they truly need. Help your child develop these real-life skills by enlisting his or her help with reading a map, following a recipe, checking grocery receipts, calculating a restaurant tip, and so on. By applying reading, writing, science, and math skills in relevant and practical ways, he or she will better understand the importance of these skills.



An Eye for Patterns

A red-brick sidewalk, a beaded necklace, a Sunday newspaper—all show evidence of structure and organization. You can help your child recognize a variety of structure or types of organization by observing and talking about patterns they see. The ability to identify patterns is a skill shared by effective readers, writers, scientists, and mathematicians.



Journals as Learning Tools

Journal writing reinforces reading comprehension, but it also helps your middle schooler develop skills in many academic areas as well. A journal can simply be a spiral notebook, a composition notebook, or sheets of paper stapled together. Your middle schooler will be writing and/or drawing in the journal to complement the practice pages completed each week. The journal provides another tool for monitoring the progress of newly learned skills and practicing those that need improvement. Before moving on to another set of practice pages, take a few minutes to read and discuss that week's journal entries with your child.



Promote Reading at Home



- ◆ Practice what you preach! You and your middle schooler should both read for pleasure, whether you like reading science-fiction novels or do-it-yourself magazines. Reading should not always be work. **Sometimes we should read just for fun!** Keeping reading materials around the house encourages you to read in front of your child and demonstrates that reading is an activity you enjoy.
- ◆ Set aside a family reading time. By designating a reading time each week, your family is assured an opportunity to discuss what everyone is reading. For example, you might share a funny quote from an article, or your middle schooler can tell you his or her favorite part of a story. The key is to **make a family tradition of reading—and sharing what you've read.**
- ◆ **Make a family collection of reading materials** easily accessible by everyone. Designate a specific place for library books and post the return date. This idea will help prevent library fines. Keep reading materials fresh and interesting by buying used books, swapping books and magazines with friends and neighbors, as well as checking out books from the library.

Skills Review and Practice

Educators have established learning standards for math and language arts. Listed below are some of the important skills covered in *Summer Express* that will help your middle schooler review and prepare for the coming school year so that he or she is ready to meet these learning standards.

Math

7th Grade Skills to Review

- ◆ reviewing basic operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- ◆ applying formulas to find measurements of plane figures
- ◆ understanding the location of points on a coordinate grid on any of the four quadrants
- ◆ applying a variety of strategies to solve problems requiring algebraic formulas
- ◆ evaluating expressions and formulas
- ◆ devising a plan to solve a problem
- ◆ applying a variety of strategies to solve two-step equations with one variable
- ◆ using estimation to determine the reasonableness of answers
- ◆ applying concepts and procedures from probability and statistics
- ◆ reviewing order of operations

Skills to Practice for 8th Grade

- ◆ devising a plan to solve any type of problem
- ◆ interpreting different forms of data
- ◆ studying Pythagoras and his theorem
- ◆ performing basic operations on algebraic expressions
- ◆ identifying rays, lines, end points, line segments, vertices, and angles
- ◆ understanding and applying the procedures for simplifying single variable expressions

Language Arts

7th Grade Skills to Review

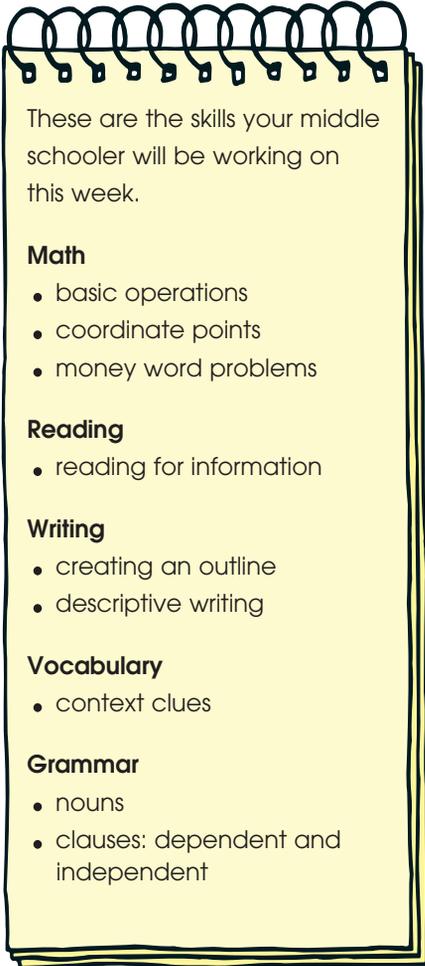
- ◆ identifying the correct use of parts of speech
- ◆ improving use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- ◆ recognizing and differentiating different types of sentences
- ◆ demonstrating proof of reading comprehension
- ◆ understanding and applying knowledge of text components to comprehend text
- ◆ reading new information or following directions
- ◆ using clauses, phrases, gerunds, and infinitives correctly
- ◆ understanding root words, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones
- ◆ identifying commonly used foreign words and phrases
- ◆ gathering information from a variety of sources

Skills to Practice for 8th Grade

- ◆ knowing and using the different types of sentences
- ◆ demonstrating knowledge of correct sentence structure
- ◆ using correct capitalization and punctuation
- ◆ distinguishing between clauses, phrases, and sentences
- ◆ differentiating between independent and dependent clauses
- ◆ differentiating between simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences
- ◆ recognizing English words derived from Greek roots
- ◆ identifying common phrases and terms from other languages used in English
- ◆ identifying a topic and gathering information from a variety of sources
- ◆ reading information for a variety of purposes
- ◆ identifying and using different styles of writing: persuasive, expository, or narrative
- ◆ determining best word choice based on context



Helping Your Middle Schooler Get Ready: Week 1



Here are some activities you and your middle schooler might enjoy.

Creating a Teen Retreat Your middle schooler is about to enter eighth grade and the “real” teen years. A great summer activity that will make him or her feel more grown-up is a bedroom update. Have your child make a list of what changes he or she would like to make in the room. Spend some time together clipping photos from magazines and catalogs, gathering fabric and paint samples, and anything else that seems interesting. Collect and edit until the dream room and the family budget are a match. Before starting, have your teen make a floor plan, and then do some preliminary online pricing for paint or other supplies. Encourage him or her to rearrange the furniture and decide together what should be stored away.

Set a Summer’s End Goal Suggest that your child set some goals for the end of the summer—perhaps becoming a better cook or tackling a new sport. Help your child come up with a plan for success.

Your middle schooler might enjoy reading one of the following books:

The Incredible Journey
by Sheila Burnford

James and the Giant Peach
by Roald Dahl

Light, Sound & Electricity
by Kirsteen Rogers et. al.





My Week at a Glance



Use this page to set goals and make journal entries.

Goals for Monday

Journal: Imagine and describe a perfect summer day. What would you do? Who would you do it with? Where would you go?

Goals for Tuesday

Goals for Wednesday

Journal: Imagine you could be a character in your favorite video game. Who would you choose to be? What would be special about the new you?

Goals for Thursday

Goals for Friday

Journal: Mark Twain once said, "To get the full value of a joy, you must have somebody to divide it with." What do you think he meant by that? Do you agree or disagree? Why?



Lost at Camp

Trace a path from the Parking Lot to the Campfire Circle by following eight correctly written equations. Avoid ones with mistakes.

Parking Lot
START

Maintenance Building
 $(21 \times 13) \div 7 = 39$

Arts and Crafts
 $-18 \div 9 = -2$

Administration Building
 $16 \times 50 = 800$

Counselors' Bunkhouse
 $-6 (-4) \times (-5) = -120$

Bath House
 $-5 + 5 = 10$

Bunkhouse 3
 $-18 \div -9 = 2$

Bunkhouse 2
 $20 - (-12) = 8$

Bunkhouse 1
 $97 - (-1) = 98$

Dining Hall
 $\frac{1}{10} \times (3,772 + 528) = 430$

Campfire Circle
 $-5 + 5 = 0$

Fields
 $303 - 29 = 284$

Kayaking Area
 $3 + (-8) = -5$

Sailing Area
 $-5 - (-13) = 8$

Beach Area
 $42 + 16 + 53 - 11 \div 10 = 10$

Lake LaBelle

Canoeing Area



It's Only Proper!



A **common noun** names any person, place, thing, or idea. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. Here are some examples of common and proper nouns. Common nouns are not capitalized, but proper nouns are.

Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
city	Atlanta
river	Mississippi River
poet	Maya Angelou
street	Main Street
organization	Boy Scouts of America

Read the following sentences. Underline the common nouns and circle the proper nouns.

1. **Monaco is the second smallest country in Europe.**
2. **Brittany and her two best friends live on Washington Street.**
3. **The American Red Cross brings aid to people during disasters.**
4. **The United States is a democratic country.**
5. **William Butler Yeats wrote beautiful poetry!**
6. **He wrote the poem, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."**
7. **This Irish land must be quite special to the poet.**
8. **The place of which Yeats wrote is near Sligo, Ireland.**
9. **The sights beyond the lake include views of the Lough Gill Mountains.**
10. **The Hazelwood Sculpture Trail is close to the lake.**
11. **The United Nations is in New York City.**
12. **Nathan is an excellent guitarist.**
13. **Australia is the smallest continent.**
14. **Lincoln Avenue is our town's busiest street.**
15. **Josh and Molly are cousins.**



Hatshepsut

Throughout the long history of Ancient Egypt, its rulers, or **pharaohs**, were almost always men. But one woman did succeed in becoming pharaoh. Hatshepsut was a princess married to a pharaoh. When her husband died, her 10-year-old stepson should have become the pharaoh. But Hatshepsut saw a chance to seize power. She claimed the boy was too young to rule and demanded to be named his co-ruler.

To be sure people saw her as pharaoh, Hatshepsut had to dress the part. She adopted all of the **accoutrements** of a pharaoh: the headdress, clothes, and even the fake beard worn by all of Egypt's pharaohs.

Hatshepsut not only looked the part of a powerful leader, she acted it. Historians characterize her reign as a time of peace and prosperity for Egypt. She oversaw the creation of many great works of art, restored religious temples, and, most important, organized trade networks. She ruled Egypt for 20 years.

After her death, Hatshepsut's stepson, Thutmose III, came to power. Unfortunately, he attempted to erase Hatshepsut from history. He began destroying everything he could find with her image or name on it. Despite Thutmose III's efforts, some artifacts remained for researchers to unearth. Archaeologists found evidence of Hatshepsut's rule, and today we know many things about this successful female pharaoh.



Answer the following questions.

- Hatshepsut was—**
 - an archaeologist.
 - a pharaoh.
 - an Egyptian model.
 - a historian.
- A pharaoh is—**
 - always male.
 - an archaeologist.
 - the name for a ruler of Ancient Egypt.
 - a princess.
- What happened first?**
 - Hatshepsut restored temples.
 - Thutmose III came to power.
 - Researchers uncovered her story.
 - Hatshepsut became pharaoh.
- Hatshepsut's reign is characterized by—**
 - peace and prosperity.
 - uprisings against the throne.
 - destruction of Thutmose III's image.
 - unrelenting drought and famine.
- Accoutrements refer to—**
 - great works of art.
 - a successor to the throne.
 - clothing and accessories.
 - acts of royal vandalism.
- When Thutmose III claimed the throne—**
 - an age of peace and prosperity began.
 - he tried to erase any sign of Hatshepsut.
 - she became the first female pharaoh.
 - he decided not to wear a false beard.
- Hatshepsut's story was discovered by—**
 - researchers.
 - a pharaoh.
 - Thutmose III.
 - her husband.
- To look like a pharaoh, Hatshepsut—**
 - learned a sacred dance.
 - studied in Greece under philosophers.
 - decided to retire after 20 years.
 - wore special clothes and a fake beard.