**CH&M**

**Extensive Reading Program**

Reading extensively is very important to students because it helps them gain confidence as they read on their own. This is only possible if the student knows about 95% of the characters. The Mandarin Companion books are low vocabulary, high interest enabling students to read them independently. Characters are repeated and spiraled as part of an interesting story, already familiar to students.

The following is suggested:

Course 1: (All of the following books have been resituated in China, with Chinese characters and cultural norms) These books should have been ordered by your school:

See Mandarin Companion: [Mandarin Companion](http://mandarincompanion.com/)

Ordered for 7th Grade:

* The Country of the Blind (Based on H.G Well’s original story)
* The 60-Year Dream (Based on the Rip Van winkle legend)

Ordered for 8th Grade:

* The Secret Garden (Based on Frances Hodgson Burnett’s story)
* Sherlock Holmes and the Curly Haired Company (Based on “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Red-headed league”

Each book is divided into 10-12 short chapters and each chapter has 3-4 questions. It is suggested that teachers do at least 2 books per year for Culture, History, & Media (at least one per semester). The reading can be spread out so a few chapters are read each week. Students should also have time to discuss the reading in class. After an assigned reading, the students can be divided into groups, with a rotating group leader who will lead a discussion about the questions from the chapter in the book. Students can then begin to write the answers to the questions, to be finished at home. Teachers can go as fast or as slow as they think their students can handle. Teachers can also send home a Reading Log sheet that parents sign to indicate that their students have done the assigned reading.

During the last week, each group will work on a final book project. Students can choose one of the following:

1. Dramatize the story (students could also write the script). This could be done as a video.

2. Students create a different ending for the book and write that up and present it.

3. Each member of the group will choose one character from the story and write a summary from that character's perspective. This could also be presented.

4. Students could create a class book or PPT with pictures and script and present it to the class.

* Teachers can differentiate books, particularly teachers with 8th grade students, since 2 more books have been ordered for 8th grade. Different groups can be assigned to read different books, or read them at different speeds depending on their abilities.

**Kidblog:**

Kidblog.org

Teacher Premium package

* At the end of each unit have your students blog about the topic taught in the unit with the students in their sister school. This should be tied to the unit project.
* You should work with your partner teacher in China to help her/him register students. You will be assigned a partner teacher in Xi’an. (It is also possible to blog with other 7th grade teachers in Utah)
* The internet is very slow in China, so it is best for the Chinese students to reply to the blog posts at home. It is recommended that you match a US student with 1 or 2 Chinese students. You can also ask them to respond to at least 5 additional students once they have responded to their partner.
* Students should first write in the target language and then write in their native language. They should respond in the target language.

**Reading Log**

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