

Grade 7 ELA Recovery Assignments Opportunities

Text: “Why the Grass Might Actually be Greener on the Other Side of the Fence”

*Instructions: You **must** complete all nine (9) assignments below. Each graded assignment will replace a missing or not-mastered Practice or Minor grade in the gradebook for the period of September 26-November 15. All assignments are due to your ELA teacher on or before Monday, November 28, 2022.*

7RI2	7RI2	7RI2
What word is repeating in the passage? What is the topic of the text?	Write two central ideas developed by the author in the passage.	Write an objective summary for the text “Why the Grass Might Actually be Greener on the Other Side of the Fence” without your personal opinion or judgments.
7RI8	7RI8	8RI3
What is the author’s claim in the text? Write at least 2 pieces of evidence to support the author’s claim.	Read paragraph 6. Use the R.A.C.E. Strategy. How does this paragraph develop the author’s argument regarding the pointlessness of lawn care spending.	Read paragraph seven. Use the R.A.C.E. Strategy. What is the author’s view that is expressed in paragraph seven.
7W1	7RI5	7W1
Write an introductory paragraph for an argumentative essay in which you argue “Why the Grass Might Actually be Greener on the Other Side of the Fence.”	Read paragraph 2. Use the R.A.C.E. Strategy to answer this question: Describe the role of paragraph 2 in the passage?	Write a thesis statement for the following topic: Spending money to maintain one’s lawn is unnecessary.

Why the Grass Might Actually Be Greener on the Other Side of the Fence

"Hot enough for you?" This question is as much a part of summer in the United States as outdoor cookouts and afternoons at the beach. And while we can usually count on periodic showers to cool things down and give plants the water they need, things have been different this summer. In years to come, the summer of 2012 will be remembered as a time when drought affected about two-thirds of the entire country.

Drought has a number of undesirable consequences that become more severe the longer an area goes without rain. The stores of water in city and town reservoirs can become depleted. Water levels in lakes and ponds are often lower than usual. Crops grown by local farmers may be damaged or even destroyed. This can drive up food prices at the grocery store and lower profits for the people who supply us with blueberries, corn, and wheat, as well as many other fruits, vegetables, and grains.

For average homeowners, however, the most noticeable effect of the "drought of 2012" is perhaps found right outside the front doors of bungalows and sprawling estates. It is more horrific than a parched farmer's field and more terrifying than a shrinking lake. Lawns that were once lush and healthy have become dried out, crispy, and dull brown. They are taking away from the curb appeal of all kinds of properties.

Obviously, turning on the sprinkler every afternoon is not a reasonable approach to keeping a lawn green during a drought. But some people have found a way to make their lawns look spring fresh without using massive amounts of water. It's called turf painting, and those who provide this service have seen a spike in business this summer. The method is simple. A company comes to a customer's home and sprays green dye over the tan lawn. The result? One delighted customer described her newly green lawn as "gorgeous." And one business owner who provides this service says people are "amazed" that it looks so natural. Well, except for the fact that every other lawn on the street is fried and the color of tree bark.

It would be unfair not to mention that there are upsides to turf painting. It is less labor-intensive than other lawn care practices. It is also a "greener" approach to lawn care. For one thing, there is no need to drag out the hose to keep the lawn looking green and fresh. Therefore, it can help with water conservation. Another advantage is that the desired lawn appearance can be achieved without the use of polluting fertilizers. Finally, the dye used by many turf painting companies is nontoxic and friendly to the environment. This is not true of the many chemicals Americans frequently use on their lawns. When these facts are taken into account, turf painting is a better approach to improving the appearance of a lawn than some other methods.

The thing that just doesn't feel right about turf painting is that it's completely unnecessary. Like most other lawn care practices, it is simply a matter of "keeping up appearances." And keeping our lawns looking good is costly. According to The Lawn Institute, Americans spend more than six billion dollars each year on lawn care alone. Other estimates are much, much higher. One author who wrote a book about the quest for the perfect lawn says that the value of the lawn industry in the United States is a staggering 40 billion dollars. Just imagine the *useful* things we could do with that cash!

In the end, what is all this money being spent for? Personal satisfaction? To make our neighbors jealous? I still haven't found a good answer to this question. I spend as little time and money as possible caring for my lawn. I believe grass looks best when it's a little long. I think weeds add character. I wouldn't dream of paying someone to give my yard a dye job.

It shouldn't come as any surprise, then, that I'll be letting my lawn stay brown this summer. It means less mowing and more time in my hammock. And when the snow arrives in a few short months, everyone will be wishing for summer once again, discolored lawns and all.