



Summer Reading: Students Entering 5th Grade

Summer Reading Assignment for 2009-2010 School Year

You need to choose one book from the reading list for the grade you are getting ready to enter. You may, of course, read more than one on the list, but you will need to complete the following assignment on one of the books. The assignment will be turned in to your next year's English teacher during the first or second week of school (to be determined by individual teachers). Students may also choose a book that is not on the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website arbookfind.com, is 150 pages long for students grades 4-5, or is two hundred pages long students grades 6-12.

Reading Response Journal

Writing in response to literature can be a great way for students to organize their thoughts, explore what they think, and even to generate ideas. Writing in journals allows students to capture their ideas and to better understand and relate to work of fiction. For your chosen book, you will be completing five journal entries. Here is what you need to do:

- Split your book into five equally sized parts. For each of these parts you will write one journal entry (explained below).
- For each entry you will need to have one sheet of paper – total of five sheets of paper.
- Fold each sheet of paper in half long-wise or draw a straight line down the middle.
- On the right hand side of the paper, write a short summary (at least one or two paragraphs that explain what happened in the section – make sure to have something from the beginning, the middle, and the end of your section).
- On the left hand side you will respond to your summary. You may want to write about how you feel about what you have read, other topics it may have made you think about, experiences you may have had that were similar those experienced within the book. Some sentence starters are (you may answer more than one of these per section):
 - If I were the character...
 - A quote I liked or reacted to strongly is...
 - This reminds me of...
 - I predict...
 - This line is interesting/challenging/puzzling because...
 - I now understand why/how/what ...
 - I was surprised by...
 - Some questions I have are...
 - I'm confused about...

- Complete one of these entries for each of the five sections of your book.
- Feel free to decorate your pages and to make your journal interesting.
- Then, create a cover for your journal. It needs to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and a picture of a scene from the book (you may either draw it or make a collage using magazine pictures).

Directions: You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer, but, of course, you may read more! You will complete an assignment over the book that you have selected. This assignment will be turned in during the first week of the school year.

***The Lost Years of Merlin* – T.A. Barron**

A young boy with no memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of adventures. *Lost Years of Merlin* series.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* – Gennifer Choldenko**

A twelve-year old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

-Newbery Honor

***Heartbeat* – Sharon Creech**

Twelve-year old Annie ponders the rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

***The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story* – Mary Downing Hahn**

Tired of the strict set of rules imposed on them since “the bad thing” happened,” twelve-year-old Diana is tempted to break the mysterious rules in hopes of making friends with the new caretaker's daughter at the old Willis place.

***North* – Donna Jo Napoli**

Tired of his mother's over-protectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year old Alvin spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.

***Fair Weather* – Richard Peck**

In 1893 thirteen-year-old Rose and members of her family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

***Wild Boy: A Tale of Rowan Hood* – Nancy Springer**

Determined to avenge the death of his swineherd father at the hands of the Sheriff of Nottingham, Rook finally gets his chance when the Sheriff's son is captured by Robin Hood.