



Summer Reading: Students Entering 6th 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.

***Fever, 1793* - Laurie Halse Anderson**

In 1793, Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

***Gregor the Overlander* – Suzanne Collins**

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by an ancient prophecy.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham* – Christopher Paul Curtis**

Byron's family leaves Flint, Michigan, to live with Grandma Sands in Birmingham where they experience the realities of race relations in the South.

Newbery Honor

***Inkheart* – Cornelia Caroline Funke**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel *Inkheart* years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

***Flush* – Carl Hiaasen**

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

***Kira-Kira* – Cynthia Kadohata**

The story of the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair experienced when one sister becomes terminally ill.

***Eldest* – Christopher Paolini**

In this sequel to *Eragon*, our hero successfully evades an Urgals ambush and is adopted into the Ingeitum clan, then sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

***The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts* – Richard Peck**

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies" and Russell's older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse.

***Becoming Naomi Leon* – Pam Munoz Ryan**

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

***The Unseen* – Zilpha Keatly Snyder**

Feeling angry and out of place in her large family, twelve-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghostly, sometimes frightening, phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly.