



Summer Reading: Students Entering 7th 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 one 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 reading response journal. Use one page per item or question. Answer the following items/questions about your book:

- Summarize what you just read in three to five paragraphs.
- Create a plot diagram.
- Describe the setting's time and place. Create a new setting that you think would be better for the story and describe it.
- Describe the most important event. Give at least three reasons why you think it is the most important event.
- List at least three problems the characters faced? Which problem was the most life changing? Explain
- List three new vocabulary words from your reading. What can you tell about them from their structure? What can you tell about them from their context?
- Select a quote from your reading that you liked. What made you pick it? How does it make you pause and think?
- What object is important? Draw it. Write an explanation for why you feel it is important.
- Compare what is happening to a character in the book with your own or a friend's life.

- What are some things you do when you don't understand what you're reading?
- 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.

***Parvana's Journey* – Deborah Ellis**

Parvana buries her father and sets out across Afghanistan, dressed as a boy to protect against attacks from the Taliban, determined to find her mother and the rest of her family.

***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* – John Feinstein**

Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, eighth grade sports writers, uncover a blackmail mystery while covering the Final Four College Basketball Tournament.

***Double Identity* – Margaret Haddix**

Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

***Wild Man Island* – Will Hobbs**

After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive, encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America.

***Soldier Boys* – Dean Hughes**

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

***Beyond the Burning Time* – Kathryn Lasky**

They say something very strange is happening to some of the people of Salem. That some of the young girls have become ... troubled. And the fear is beginning to spread. Mary and her mother don't hear about the rumors right away. They don't know that many of the villagers believe that some of Mary's friends have had spells cast on them – by witches. Or that one of the accused is Mary's mother. Now Mary and her brother, Caleb, have a decision to make: Are the villagers right? Or is their mother innocent? And if she is – can they help her escape before it's too late?

***Sparrow Hawk Red* – Ben Mikaelson**

Thirteen-year-old Ricky, the Mexican American son of a former Drug Enforcement Agency man, tries to avenge his mother's murder by crossing over into Mexico to steal a high-tech radar plane from drug smugglers.

***Jacob Have I Loved* – Katherine Paterson**

With wry humor, Sara Louise recalls her turbulent adolescence on Rass Island and her intense jealousy of her own twin sister. Strength of characterization and memorable external and internal action mark this superbly crafted novel as a quest for self-discovery.

Newbery Medal

ALA Notable Children's Book

ALA Best Book for Young Adults

***Surviving the Applewhites* – Stephanie Tolan**

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

***Homecoming* – Cynthia Voigt**

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father had left them a long time ago. So, as usual, it was up to thirteen-year-old Dicey, the eldest of the four, to take care of everything, make all the decisions, feed them, find places to sleep. But above all, Dicey would have to make sure to avoid the authorities who would split them up and place them in foster homes. Deep down, she hoped they could find an adult they could trust, someone who would take them in and love them. But she was afraid it was too much to hope for.