

PIN OAK SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

6th grade---2008

Students must complete both parts I and II of the Summer Reading Assignment.

Part I- Required Reading

All students will read the *Required Reading* book, Fever 1793. This book will be the basis for class activities during the first two weeks of school. Students are not required to complete reading journals for this book.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Lexile: 580

This historical novel for young adults details the horrors of the Yellow Fever epidemic in 1793 from the viewpoint of a fourteen-year-old who runs a coffeehouse with her widowed mother and grandfather. In the story, her mother is taken ill, she herself falls ill on the way to the countryside. Separated from her mother, Mattie finds herself scrabbling for survival in a mostly deserted town. Will she find her mother? Will life ever return to normal?

Part II- Choice Book

Students will read one of the following *Choice Books* and complete five reading journal pages for it (see instructions for completing reading journals). Reading Journals will be due the first week of school.

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer

Lexile: 720

17-year-old Bella moves to her dad's cabin in the dreary, rainy town of Forks, WA. She becomes intrigued with Edward Cullen, a distant, stylish, and disarmingly handsome senior, who also happens to be a vampire. Bella falls hopelessly in love with him, and the feeling is mutual. The resulting romance smolders as they attempt to hide Edward's identity from her family and the rest of the school. Sink your teeth into this book! Will love...survive?

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Lexile: 740

Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn teaches her to see the world as "kira-kira" – glittering. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, she struggles to fit in. Lynn helps Katie navigate their new surroundings and still see the beauty in the world. When Lynn becomes ill the Takeshima family begins to fall apart and it falls on Katie to find a way to remind them that there is hope in the future.

Becoming Naomi León by Pam Munoz Ryan

Lexile: 830

Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw lives with younger brother Owen and her fiercely practical Gram in a trailer park in California. An unpopular fifth grader, she spends lots of time in the library with the other outcasts and the kind librarian. Naomi's talent is carving objects out of soap. After being gone for seven years, her mother shows up one day with a scary boyfriend, Clive. Clive thinks he could use Owen's deformities to make money gambling. What will be their fate?

Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Lexile: 950

Bud is growing up in hard times. America during the Depression, in the 1930's, is a country struggling with poverty and hunger. Bud lives in an orphanage since his mother died. Foster homes haven't worked out. Bud doesn't know anything about his father, except for the clue which his mother left him. He has a flyer for a jazz band: Herman E. Calloway and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression. Bud decides to go looking for Herman E. Calloway. Will he find him? Will he be reunited with his father?

Midnight for Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo

Lexile: 630

Charlie doesn't want to believe it when he discovers that he can hear the thoughts of people in photographs, but his horrible aunts are delighted. It means that he is one of the "chosen" and he can attend Bloor's Academy for gifted children. Find out what happens when Charlie realizes that some of his classmates have equally mysterious powers and not all of them have good intentions!

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Lexile: 600

In this fantasy, twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. With two trusty sidekicks in tow, he hatches a cunning plot to divest the fairy folk of their pot of gold. Of course, he isn't foolish enough to believe in all that "gold at the end of the rainbow" nonsense. Rather, he knows that the only way to separate the little people from their stash is to kidnap one of them and wait for the ransom to arrive. But what happens next will surely come as a surprise.

Reading Journal

Title:

Date Completed:

Author:

Chapters Covered:

Reader's Name:

Pages Covered:

Instructions: NEATLY and COMPLETELY fill in each section with your thoughts as you read. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

Points

Connections

Questions

Comments

New Vocabulary

How to Keep a Reading Journal

How many Journals? You will be expected to complete FIVE Reading Journal pages on your choice book. A simple way of knowing when to complete a Journal entry is to divide the total number of chapters by five. (For instance, Bud Not Buddy is 19 chapters long. You should stop and complete a Journal at the end of approximately every four chapters. However, Artemis Fowl has only 9 chapters, so you would complete a journal after reading every 2 chapters and your last journal would be over 1 chapter.)

What should they include? Each Journal entry has FIVE REQUIRED PARTS: Points, Questions, Connections, Comments, and Vocabulary. Below is an explanation of what to write in each section. Each of these must be done.

Points-For this section, you should record anything that particularly stood out to you as you read that section of the book. What surprised you? What stuck in your mind? What did you learn? As you record your thoughts, don't try to write a paragraph that makes sense. Let each sentence stand alone as its own thought.

Questions-In this section, you should list any question that came to your mind as you read. You may only write a question if the answer is not given in that section of the book. Use question words (such as who what, when, why, or how) in your sentences. Examples: "I wonder when/where this is taking place? Why did that character act that way? When did he...? Who is...? How does he know...? You **MUST ASK A MINIMUM OF THREE QUESTIONS** on each journal.. This may be difficult at first, but it will get easier the more you do it.

Connections-In this section, I want you to record anything that happens or that is said within a section that you can relate to in some way. Sometimes situations in a book remind us of things that have happened in our lives. Sometimes a character acts or talks a certain way that reminds us of someone we know or have met. Perhaps a character or situation may remind us of another fictional character or situation in another book, on TV, or from a movie. Another way to connect to a reading is through a familiar place or an object. List any of these connections that you make as you read.

Comments-In this section, list your personal comments and predictions. What do you think of what the characters have done or said so far? Do you agree or disagree with the way he/she handled situations? What do you think will happen next? What are the results of the decisions he/she has made?

Vocabulary-This is nothing more than a list of three to five words for each section and their definitions. These may include 1) words you have never seen or heard before or 2) those that you have seen, but aren't sure what they mean in a particular phrase, sentence, or situation.

How should my Journal look? Since journaling is a habit I would like you to develop *as you read*, the Journals will be handwritten. Please keep in mind, if I cannot read the Journal, I cannot grade it. Therefore, you will not get credit. You will use the sample format on the back of this sheet. You will make 5 copies of that sheet. You will hand in 5 completed Journal pages for each choice book you read. You should also look at the example Reading Journal page that has been done for you.

Need More Information? Go to the Pin Oak Web site www.pinoak.us You will find information for entering 6th, 7th, & 8th graders with sample journal pages.

Reading Journal

Title: Because of Winn-Dixie

Date Completed: 6-20-08

Author: Kate DiCamillo Chapters Covered: 1-5
Pages Covered: 7-39

Reader's Name: Stanley Yelnats

Instructions: NEATLY and COMPLETELY fill in each section with your thoughts as you read. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

Points

1. I was surprised that Opal didn't know very much about her mother. She finds out ten things about her mother in the first few chapters.
2. The preacher seems to have a very big heart because he allowed Opal to keep Winn-Dixie. Now Winn-Dixie is a huge part of their lives. He goes everywhere with them.
3. I'm surprised Opal said she is lonely because she doesn't have any friends. She seems like someone who would have a lot of friends. She is so kind and caring.

Connections

1. Opal's mother was a horrible cook. I can relate to this because I can't cook well either. I burn everything.
2. The Open Arms Baptist Church of Naomi is in a building that used to be a store. A church in my old neighborhood is in a building that used to be a grocery store.
3. I found a stray dog once. My mom let me keep it just like the preacher let Opal keep Winn-Dixie.

Questions

1. Why won't the preacher talk to Opal about her mother?
2. Why did Opal's mother leave? Doesn't she miss her family?
3. Who did Winn-Dixie originally belong to?

Comments

1. I think Winn-Dixie showing up in the preacher and Opal's lives is a good thing. Opal won't be so lonely now. The preacher is also starting to lighten up a bit.
2. Opal hasn't had the opportunity to just be a kid in this new town. It seems like she has to spend a lot of time alone. She also has to be quiet in the trailer park. She's not supposed to disturb her neighbors.
3. I think Opal's mother made some bad choices in her life. I can't believe she would just leave her daughter and never even try to contact her.

New Vocabulary

1. missionary- one sent to spread a religious faith among unbelievers.
2. pews- a compartment in the auditorium of a church providing seats for several persons.
3. congregation- an assembly of persons gathered for religious worship.