

May 2010

Dear Parents of Rising Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Students,

Summer is almost here and with that season comes pool parties, vacations, and the middle school summer reading project. Each of your students has already gotten or will get this assignment in class. We will go over any questions they have then. I wanted to send a copy home to all of you so that you have a back-up copy.

If you have any questions, shoot me an email at school. I will check my email daily until the end of the school year and periodically during the summer.

Have a great summer, and I will see you come fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Becky Gettelman
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Middle School Summer Reading Project 2010

Due: The first day of the 2010-2011 school year

Books:

Pick and read one book off your list:

- Incoming Sixth Graders: *Dealing with Dragons* by Patricia C. Wrede, *Jason's Gold* by Will Hobbs, *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George
- Incoming Seventh Graders: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls, *The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman, *Redwall* by Brian Jacques, *The Princess and the Hound* by Mette Ivie Harrison
- Incoming Eighth Graders: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *The Hero and the Crown* by Robin McKinley, *Dragonsong* by Anne McCaffrey

Assignment:

When you have finished reading the book, you will need to complete a three part assignment.

Part One: Book Review

Write a one full page (typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font) review of the book—final copy format—this means proofread. This is NOT a report! Don't tell what happened in the book. Review it. Your review should answer questions like:

- What made the book good
- What made the book not good
- Is this book worth reading
- What type of person/reader would you recommend this book to

Part Two: Book Poster

Here you get to be creative! Pretend you are the executive at an advertisement agency that has been charged with creating the add campaign for this book. You need to create a poster that advertises your book to people. Think of this like a movie poster, but for your book instead. You may use computer graphics or hand-drawn ones. You have pretty free reign with this, but make sure to include the following things somewhere on your poster:

- The title and author of your book
- Your name
- A tagline (of your own creation) for your book

Part Three: Character Diagram—Visual OR in Words (choose only one)

All writing on this should be typed!

Visual: Get one large sheet of poster board and split it in half. On each half, you will do a character diagram of one of the main characters from the book. Each diagram should begin with a picture of the character. On that drawing, you must then visually illustrate and label important characteristics—both physical and non-physical—about that character. You must have at least eight characteristics per character. If this is confusing, go see the examples posted on the wall outside of the eighth grade classroom.

Words: Get one large sheet of poster board and split it in half. On each side you will complete one character diagram. These are kind of like mind webs. Each diagram should have eight characteristics coming off of the center that describe that character—include a mix of physical and non-physical characteristics. Then include two examples from the book of how that characteristic is demonstrated (a quote, an example, a story). Finally, along the bottom of each poster board, write two or three sentences describing what the reader could learn from each of these characters and how this lesson was demonstrated. If this is confusing, go see the examples posted on the wall outside of the eighth grade classroom.

Extra Credit:

Read one additional book off your list above and complete two of the three activities above for this book (one must be the book review).