

## Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 5

As you prepare to enter 5th grade at Topeka Collegiate, you should do as much reading as you can. Reading will help keep your mind active and help ensure that you are ready for the beginning of your 5th grade year.

### **REQUIRED:**

For 5th Grade Summer Reading you are required to read **My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George**. If you have already read this book, please read it again as you complete the literature activities in this packet.

As you read the book, complete the questions and activities in the attached packet. Answer the questions as you read each chapter or each section, as designated in the study guide. Please DO NOT wait until you've read the entire book to look at the study guide. After you finish reading the book, please write a letter to Ms. Jackson about the story.

**We will read the sequel to this book in class.**

### **REQUIRED:**

In addition to reading My Side of the Mountain, students will also read **at least one book (of their choice) off this year's William Allen White list and complete the book summary sheet for their selection. A list of these books is attached.**

Please note: I have attached both lists of nominees- The 3rd through 5th grade list and the 6th through 8th grade list. Please select from the 6th through 8th grade list, if possible. If you find the books are not a good fit for your reading level, then you may select from the 3rd through 5th grade list. All are excellent reading choices.

These are actual 5th grade assignments and they WILL be assessed and recorded the first week of school.

**Again, you are REQUIRED to read a total of 2 books- My Side of the Mountain AND a book of your choosing from the William Allen White Nominee List.**

This packet is due, in its entirety, on the first day of school. Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jackson

## Responding to the Story- A Friendly Letter

Write a friendly letter to Ms. Jackson about My Side of the Mountain.

Make sure to include:

A heading (the date at the top)

A greeting (Dear Ms. Jackson)

A closing (Sincerely, your name)

In the body of your letter be sure to include:

A starting sentence that states the title of the book.

Two of your favorite parts and WHY.

A part of the story that reminds you of your life or of another book you've read and WHY.

How the book made you feel and WHY.

Any questions you'd like to ask Ms. Jackson about the story.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George  
**Chapters 1-7**

1. Why did Sam think hickory trees were wonderful?

---

2. Why did the female falcon attack Sam?

---

3. How did Sam cook eggs?

---

4. How many siblings did Sam have at home?

---

5. What did Sam eat that tasted like potatoes?

---

6. What did Sam use as a calendar?

---

7. Why did Sam want the falcon?

---

8. Who was The Baron?

---

9. How did Sam learn to build a fire?

---

10. What did the little old lady force Sam to do?

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George

**Chapters 8-12**

1. How did Sam get his first deer?

---

2. What was the visitor's name for Sam?

---

3. What were the best tunes for willow whistles?

---

4. Who saw the smoke from Sam's fire and came to investigate?

---

5. Why didn't Sam need to teach the visitor how to live off the land?

---

6. Why did the hikers leave Sam's area?

---

7. Who was Bando?

---

8. How did Sam know he had caught a deer in his trap?

---

9. How did Sam get mussels?

---

10. What did the teacher bring from town?

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George

**Chapters 13-18**

1. Who helped Sam overcome his loneliness while he was digging the clay?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Sam do to invite the animals to a Halloween party?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Sam celebrate Halloween?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why had Sam gone to town?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Sam invited Mr. Jacket to come to his camp. Is this True or False? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Sam test his fireplace?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What had Sam forgotten to do before winter?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Mr. Jacket call Sam?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why was Sam surprised Mr. Jacket was a friend?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why did Sam consider hunters as friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George

**Chapters 19-22**

1. Why did Sam stack the wood near the tree?

---

2. How did Sam name the birds?

---

3. What did Sam tell Matt Spell?

---

4. The Baron was a carnivore. Is this True or False? Explain.

---

5. What event killed many birds?

---

6. What had Dad brought with him?

---

7. Who came for Christmas?

---

8. What did the deer teach Sam about plants?

---

9. What vitamin did Sam lack during the winter?

---

10. What did Sam use as a barometer?

---



**Main Problem:** Please provide a brief summary of the main problem(s) in the story. You may share one of two big events that happen, as well.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Your Opinion and Recommendation of the Novel:** Be sure to tell why you have this opinion and why you'd recommend it to the people you'd recommend it to.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---