

Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 7

The summer reading for incoming seventh graders includes three novels; one novel is required for the entire class, and the second and third novels may be selected from the attached lists or personal libraries. The required novel is a Newbery Honor book, Nothing But the Truth, by Avi. The author describes the book this way:

“What I set out to do is to put the reader in charge – like a detective – by presenting all the evidence pertaining to an event that happened – or did not happen – in school. It’s all fiction of course, but it reads very realistically. What’s more, it asks the reader to decide what really happened in the story. You have to decide for yourself. You have to read very carefully to decide what actually happened. After all, when you’re asked to swear that you will “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,” everybody says they will. And yet they do not agree about what happened. That’s what this book is all about, the complexities of truth.”

Each student is responsible for purchasing and reading the novel. Your written assignment for this novel has five parts: to summarize, ask questions, pick passages, make connections, and draw a picture. This assignment must be **typed and double spaced**.

Here are the requirements for each part:

I. Summarize

Identify the author and title and then summarize the novel. Convey the “gist” of the book – the key points, the main highlights, the essence of the novel. (Approximately half a page)

II. Ask questions

Write 3 questions you would like to ask the author about the novel. You might ask something about character or plot or theme, but be specific.

III. Pick passages

Find 3 passages in the novel that you believe are particularly important. Copy them, cite their page numbers, and explain why they are important.

IV. Make connections

Find 3 connections between the book and the world. In other words, connect the reading to: your own life, happenings at school, similar events at other times/places, stories in the news, other people or problems, or other books or stories. For each, be sure to identify what happens in the book and then make the connection.

V. Draw a picture

First write (type) what you believe to be the most important part of the story. Then depict it. You may choose any art form – a collage, a pencil drawing, an abstract representation, etc. You need not be an artist; stick figures are fine. Be sure that you use unlined paper and that you utilize most of the paper.

Use the Roman numbers to identify the sections of your “report.” You need not put each on a separate piece of paper.

The assignment for the 2nd and 3rd novels, the ones you choose, appears at the end of this document.

Students should bring their completed work on the first day of school.

Suggested Reading List

NEWBERY AWARD BOOKS

2010:

Medal Winner: *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

Honor Books: *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg Rodman Philbrick

2009:

Medal Winner: *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

Honor Books: *The Underneath* by Kathi Appelt

Savvy by Ingrid Law

After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson

2008:

Medal Winner: *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz

Honor Books: *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson

2007:

Medal Winner: *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron

Honor Books: *Penny from Heaven* by Jennifer L. Holm

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

Rules by Cynthia Lord

2006:

Medal Winner: *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins

Honor Books: *Whitinton* by Alan Armstrong

Hitler Youth: Growing up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell

Bartoletti

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson

2005:

Medal Winner: *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadhata

Honor Books: *Alcapone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko

The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary Schmidt

2004:

Medal Winner: *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread* by Kate DiCamillo

Honor Books: *Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy

2003:

Medal Winner: *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi

Honor Books: *The House of Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

A Corner of The Universe by Ann M. Martin

Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan

2002:

Medal Winner: *A Single Shared* by Linda Sue Park

Honor Books: *Everything on a Waffle* by Polly Horvath

2001:

Medal Winner: *A Year Down Under* by Richard Peck

Honor Books: *Hope was Here* by Joan Bauer

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Joey Pigza Loves Control by Jack Gantos

The Wanderer by Sharon Creech

2000:

Medal Winner: *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Honor Books: *Getting Near Baby* by Audrey Coulombis

Our Only May Amelia by Jennifer L. Holm

26 Fairmount Avenue by Tomie dePaola

MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD BOOKS

2010:

Medal Winner: *Going Bovine* by Libba Bray

Honor Books: *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Debra Heiligian

The Monstrumologist by Rick Yancy

Punkzilla by Adam Rapp

Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973

by John Barnes

2009:

Medal Winner: *Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta

Honor Books: *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol 2: The Kingdom of the Waves* by M.T. Anderson
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart
Nation by Terry Pratchett
Tender Morsels by Margo Lanagan

2008:

Medal Winner: *The White Darkness* by Geraldine McCaughrean

Honor Books: *Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet* by Elizabeth Knox

One Whole and Perfect Day by Judith Clarke

Repossessed by A.M. Jenkins

2007:

Medal Winner: *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

Honor Books: *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party* by M.T. Anderson
The Abundance of Katherines by John Green
Surrender by Sonya Hartnett
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

2006:

Medal Winner: *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

Honor Books: *Black Juice* by Marg Lanagan
I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak
A Wreath for Emmett Till by Marilyn Nelson

2005:

Medal Winner: *how I live now* by Meg Rosoff

Honor Books: *Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel
Chanda's Secrets by Allan Stratton
Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

2004:

Medal Winner: *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson

Honor Books: *The Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly

Keesha's House by Helen Frost
Fat Kid Rules the World by K.L. Going

2003:

Medal Winner: *Postcards from No Man's Land* by Aidan Chambers

Honor Books: *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
My Heartbreak by Garret Freymann-Weyr
Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos

2002:

Medal Winner: *A Step From Heaven* by An Na

Honor Books: *The Ropemaker* by Peter Dickinson
Art by Jan Greenberg Abrams
Freewill by Chris Lynch
True Believer by Virginia Euwer Wolff

2001:

Medal Winner: *Kit's Wilderness* by David Almond

Honor Books: *Many Stones* by Carolyn Coman
The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-Ucci
Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman

2000:

Medal Winner: *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

Honor Books: *Skellig* by David Almond
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Hard Love by Ellen Wittlinger

Annotated List

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain

Tom goes from one miss-adventure to another as he grows up in a small town along the Mississippi River.

Black Like Me, by John Griffin

The author tells the fascinating story of how he darkened his skin in order to blend into Afro-American society in the Deep South and of what he learned while meeting and traveling among black Americans.

A Day No Pigs Would Die, by Robert Newton Peck.

A thirteen-year-old Shaker boy living on a farm in Vermont is the main character in this novel as he assumes many adults responsibilities. Graphic scenes of farm life may shock city kids.

Death Be Not Proud, by John Gunther.

True story of the courageous fight for life by the author's adolescent son who suffers from a brain tumor.

Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank

Honest account of a Jewish girl's experiences and emotions while hiding from the Nazis in Occupied Holland.

Farewell to Manzanar, by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston.

This true story tells of one Japanese-American family's attempt to survive with dignity the humiliations of forced detention during World War II.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, by JK Rowling.

The next volume in the thrilling, bestselling Harry Potter series. The series continues as Harry and his friends in their 5th year at Hogwarts face the reality of Voldemort's rise to power.

Jacob Have I Loved, by Katherine Paterson.

Sara Louise is the heroine. Her twin sister, adolescence and the Chesapeake Bay region are the themes of this thought-provoking novel. Newbery Medal Winner.

Kim/Kimi, by Hadley Irwin.

Kim is Irish-American on her mother's side and Japanese-American on her father's side. She travels from her home in Iowa to the California Japanese-American community in order to answer some questions about herself.

Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott.

The story of the four March sisters who come of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War. Each struggles with her own problems and talents.

My Brother Stealing Second, by Jim Naughton.

The title of this novel refers to Bobby's favorite memory of his older brother, Billy, who died in an accident before the story begins. The author, a sportswriter, uses numerous baseball scenes effectively.

Sod and Stubble, by John Ise.

This classic novel tells the story of Henry and Rosie, two young Americans of German birth who take out a homestead claim in Western Kansas in 1873. A "must-read" book for all Kansans that is a story of inspiration.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor.

The members of Cassie's family are determined not to surrender their independence because they are black, but the events of one turbulent year threaten to destroy their world.

The Moves Make the Man, by Bruce Brooks.

This novel "has a basketball theme and plenty of action, but sport is merely the vehicle for delivering a serious story of friendship and madness" between two youths, one black and one white, in trouble. *Newbery Honor book.*

The Sea Wolf, by Jack London.

Wolf Larsen makes bookish Humphrey Van Weyden an unwilling crewman on the Ghost. Humphrey begins to act as rough as the rest of the crew until shipwrecked Maud Brewster becomes the only woman on board the ship.

The Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Greene.

An abusive Jewish store owner's daughter befriends an escaped German prisoner-of-war in Arkansas during World War II.

Tunes for Bears to Dance To, by Robert Cormier.

Henry discovers evil when his bigoted boss manipulates him into betraying his friend, an elderly Holocaust survivor.

Where the Broken Heart Still Beats: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker, by Carolyn Meyer.

Discovered and forced to return to her family in 1836, twenty-four years after her capture by Comanches, Cynthia Ann Parker is unable to adjust to life away from the tribe.

White Fang, by Jack London.

The story of an animal, part dog and part wolf, who has become vicious through cruel human abuse, but who is transformed by the affection of one young man.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare.

When Kit is orphaned, she is forced to leave her island home in the Caribbean and move to Colonial Connecticut to live with her aunt's family. An independent woman unused to Puritan ways, she is eventually accused of witchcraft. **Newbery Medal Winner.**

ADDITIONAL BOOKS ENJOYED BY PREVIOUS STUDENTS

The Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz

The On The Run Series by Gordon Korman

The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson

Catch by Will Leitch

A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

Glory Field by Walter Dean Myers

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

Change Up by John Feinstein

The Big Field by Mike Lupica

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

Summer of my German Soldier by Bette Greene

Travel Team by Mike Lupica

The Entitled by Frank Deford

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier and Chris Collier

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac

Rifles for Watie by Harold Keith
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Small Steps by Louis Sachar
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher
Incantation by Alice Hoffman
Green Angel by Alice Hoffman
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich by Alice Childress
Shane by Jack Schaefer
Tangerine by Edward Bloor
Jump Ship to Freedom by James and Christopher Collier
Trouble Don't Last by Shelley Pearsall
Looking for Alaska by John Green
The Boy Who Saved Baseball

