June 2020
To: Incoming Sixth Grade Students
Re: Summer Reading Project

One of the most important indicators of success in our society today is the ability to read and interpret what one reads, whether it is a ballot, a news article, or memos at work. Students need to understand what they read, and also to connect that reading to other literary works, themselves, and the world. By extending the ideas that are presented in the story and by evaluating the author, you learn to think critically. This approach to summer reading is designed to help you work toward mastering those skills. In the following pages, you will find a series of prompts designed to encourage critical thinking about the book you have chosen. Please be sure to respond to all of the prompts while you are reading the book. Responses should be at least a paragraph in length, and should demonstrate thought and creativity. This journal should be handed in to your English teacher on the Monday of the first full week of school. You will be graded on your effort, accuracy, and diligence with this exercise. The grade for this assignment will be a part of the first trimester Reading grade. Your spelling and grammar will be a part of the first trimester Writing grade. When we return to school, you will be expected to discuss your book in detail. This will be a part of your Listening & Speaking grade for the first trimester.

Each student is expected to read **one** of the following books:
*Chasing Lincoln’s Killer* by James L. Swanson
*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
*The Chicago Fire* by Jim Murphy
*Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
*Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli

Students should be reading for about 15–20 minutes every day. You are expected to complete the independent reading journal every time you read.

Thank you. Enjoy your summer.
This summer, you will be completing a reading log. You should be reading for 15–20 minutes every day. Then you will write a journal entry once a week about what you have read.

Title: 

Author: 

Genre (fantasy, humor, science fiction, mystery, historical fiction, biography, non-fiction, etc.): 

Publisher: 

Date of Publication: 

Why did you choose to read this book?

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Characters

Describe the characters in your book. Make sure to answer all of the questions in complete sentences.

Who is the main character? What does the character look like, say, think, feel, and do? Why is this character someone you think you would either get along with or not? Use details from the story to back up your reasons.

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Describe at least 3 other characters.
Character 1: Who is it? __________________________
Why are they important or how do their interactions with the main character make an impact?
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Character 2: Who is it? _______________________________________________________
Why are they important or how do their interactions with the main character make an impact?
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________________________________________________________________________
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Character 3: Who is it? _______________________________________________________
Why are they important or how do their interactions with the main character make an impact?
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Setting:
Describe the where and when this story takes place.
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Reading Journal

Date: ___________________________ Pages Read: ________________

Imagery
Using your knowledge of imagery, describe a scene in your book that you've read today. Use descriptive words and statements such as I feel... I see... I hear... You will need at least three sentences describing the scene and two imaging statements.

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Date: ___________________________ Pages Read: ________________

Summarizing
What is the most important part of the story that you have read so far? Why? What is the author trying to say in these pages?

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Connecting
How are you able to connect to one of the characters of the book? Describe how you have experienced a similar situation or have felt the way s/he has? Use support from the book and from your life.

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Questioning
What questions would you want to ask the author at this point? Use phrases such as “I wonder... Is the author... What does s/he mean by... I’m confused... Does this mean...” You do not need to answer the questions.

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You as the Character
From the pages you have read, decide if you would have reacted or acted in a situation like the character did. Why or why not? Summarize the event and how you would have acted.

Date:__________________________

Pages Read:___________________

Advice
What advice would you give to the characters in your book? Why? Do you think he or she would listen to your advice? Why or why not?

Date:__________________________

Pages Read:___________________
Prediction

Explain what you think will happen next in your book. Use evidence from what you've read to support your prediction. You will need to write at least four sentences explaining your prediction.

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Date:________________________ Pages Read:________________________

Significance

What is the most important sentence/paragraph/passage in this book? What is the most important event or feeling? Explain.

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Date:________________________ Pages Read:________________________
Summer Reading 2020

Student Name: __________________________

Date: __________________________

Pages Read: _______________________

Summarizing

What is the most important part of the story that you have read so far? Why? What is the author trying to say in these pages? You will need to write 4-5 sentences to receive full credit.

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Date: __________________________

Pages Read: _______________________

Connection to your Life

What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain.

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Consideration

What parts of the book seem most believable or unbelievable? Why?

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Date:___________________________ Pages Read:__________

Write a eulogy (a speech honoring someone after death) for one of the characters in the book.

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List 10 interesting/challenging words from your book and... a. tell why each word is interesting. b. write a definition for each word. c. use each in a sentence of your own.

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   a. __________________________
   b. __________________________
   c. __________________________

2. __________________________
   a. __________________________
   b. __________________________
   c. __________________________

3. __________________________
   a. __________________________
   b. __________________________
   c. __________________________

4. __________________________
   a. __________________________
   b. __________________________
   c. __________________________
5. ____________________________  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  

6. ____________________________  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  

7. ____________________________  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  

8. ____________________________  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  

Student Name: ____________________________
9. ________________________________
   a. ________________________________
   b. ________________________________
   c. ________________________________

10. ________________________________
   a. ________________________________
   b. ________________________________
   c. ________________________________

Date: ____________________________

Pages Read: ____________________

Purpose

What was the author’s purpose for writing this book?

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Summer Reading 2020

Student Name: _____________________________

Date: ______________ Pages Read: __________

Concluding Thoughts

For the final entry you should have completed the book. What impression did this book make on you? How would you describe this book to someone who was interested in reading it? What did you learn from this book?

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