

Relationships: Family & Friendship

Summer Reading Assignment for Students Entering 6th Grade

Name: _____

Title of Book Selected: _____

As your summer vacation starts and the new school year is just around the corner, it's time to consider these essential questions: What makes a family? What does it take to be a good friend? In what ways should friends be alike or act alike? How do you know if a relationship is healthy or hurtful? How are people transformed through their relationship with others?

Assignment

Select one of the three novels listed below. As you read, think about the relationships that the main character has with their family members or friends. What is the main character's relationship like with their family or friends? Does their relationship with their family or friends have a positive or negative effect on them? What did the character learn from their family or friends? Is the character changed by their relationships with family or friends? Answer the 4 questions listed for the book you read and write a detailed response. You do not have to answer them in the order they are listed.

The One and Only Ivan

Lexile 570

By Katharine Applegate

336 pages

Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes

The Lions of Little Rock

630L

By Kristin Levine

pages

Lexile

320

As twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, it feels like her whole world is falling apart. Until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is everything Marlee wishes she could be: she's brave, brash and always knows the right thing to say. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families.

Holes

660L

By Louis Sachar

233 pages

Lexile

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

DUE DATE: Friday, September 20th 2019

Guidelines

1. **You must answer all three questions listed for your book.**
2. **Each answer must be at least 50 words in length, written neatly and in complete sentences.**
3. The response cannot present a simple summary of the passage or chapter.
4. The answer must make it clear that you read the book. That means that you should include textual evidence (specific details or descriptions) and page numbers to back up what you said.
5. Each entry should begin on a new page and be clearly labeled with the book title and question number at the top. You may rewrite the question at the top of the page if you choose.
6. You are encouraged to use this packet for the assignment, but you may use a notebook or lined paper as well.

You will find an example of an answer below.

Example

Note: The novel Wonder is NOT a summer reading choice, but it is used below to show the length and depth of writing that is expected with this assignment.

Book: Wonder by R.J. Palacio Question 1

Is Jack or Summer a better friend to Auggie?

Summer is a better friend to Auggie than Jack because she was more loyal to Auggie. Summer was there for Auggie even during challenging times. For example, on the first day of school Summer sat with Auggie when the other kids refused to. Summer always stood up for Auggie when other kids made fun of him or asked her why she was friends with him. Unlike Summer, Jack was not always loyal to Auggie. Even though Jack and Auggie were friends at the start of the story, Jack made fun of Auggie to so he could fit in with Julian and his friends. Auggie overheard Jack telling Julian that he would "kill himself" if he looked like Auggie. When Auggie overheard him, his feelings were hurt. Later, Jack apologized to Auggie and Auggie forgave him. A good friend is someone who stands up for you no matter what. Summer really

cared about Auggie’s feelings and made a point to be there for him in good times and bad times. On the other hand, Jack seemed to care more about being popular than sticking up for a friend in need.

Questions to Answer

The One and Only Ivan
By Katharine Applegate

Lexile 570
336 pages

1. What are the characteristics of Stella and Bob that make Ivan call them his best friends? Why is each of them important to Ivan?
2. What do Ivan and Stella have in common? How are they alike and how are they different?
3. Describe the special Bond between Julia and Ivan. Why is she different from all of the other children who come to see his shows?

The Lions of Little Rocks
By Kristin Levine

Lexile 630
320 pages

1. Describe Marlee’s family at the start of the story. Do you think they are a strong family unit? How do the opposing viewpoints regarding the issue of integration* impact their relationship?
2. How does time spent working to develop her friendship with Liz help Marlee to better understand herself?
3. Using the phrase, “In this story, belonging means...”, discuss the issue of belonging in The Lions of Little Rock. Explain your thinking about what it means to belong.

*integration: to end a policy that keeps people of different races apart in (a place, such as a school)

Holes
By Louis Sachar

Lexile 660
233 pages

1. At home, Stanley did not have friends. But at Camp Green Lake, he forms a special friendship with Zero. How did Zero and Stanley prove their friendship to each other? In what way does Zero fill a hole in Stanley's life?
2. How is Stanley's friendship with Zero similar to Kate Barlow's friendship with Sam? In each case why don't people approve of the friendship?
3. Why do you think Stanley starts to call Zero by his real name, Hector?

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