

7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Happy Summer! Seventh grade is right around the corner and one of the best things you can do to prepare is to read! Reading is entertaining, builds confidence, and improves grammar, writing, and basic reading skills all around! Read, read, read! In order to encourage reading and help to prepare you for seventh grade, please complete the summer reading assignment below.

Assignment: Select one of the four novels listed below and answer the questions.

Guidelines:

1. All questions must be answered using complete sentences and be at least 65 words length, either written neatly on lined paper or typed and printed out.
2. Include **one quote** from the book per answer.
3. Utilize our **RACE** response strategy!
 Restate the question.
 AnsWER the question.
 Cite evidence.
 Explain how the evidence supports the answer.

Due Date: Friday, September 13

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang, 530L**

American Born Chinese tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable.

1. What stereotypes do you see used in the book, especially with the character Chin-Kee? Be specific!
2. How did Jin respond to his environment? How was he affected by the way he was treated by those around him?
3. Jin calls Wei-Chen and F.O.B. (Fresh Off the Boat) because he says and does things that don't conform to social norms. Would it be hard for you to move to a new country or even to just a new school to try to fit in? What would be difficult? Why?

***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, 750L**

Ponyboy can count on his brothers and his friend, but not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids who get away with everything, including beating up Greasers like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect until the night someone takes things too far.

Written forty-five years ago, S.E. Hinton's classic story of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as the day it was written.

1. Social class affects all of us. How do you think social class impacts people? How do you think social class impacts people? How does social class dictate characters' behavior in *The Outsiders*?
2. What are some of the gender expectations in the novel? Are these the same or different from today? How?
3. The environment in which we grow up affects us all: family, friends, financial circumstances, school, and events that are beyond our control. In the novel, which character's life was most affected by his/her environment?

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, 930L**

Jacqueline Woodson tells a moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. She shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960's and 1970's, living with remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

1. Where does Jacqueline start to see change happening in her life? Where does she start to see it in the world in which she lives?
2. The phrase "ready to change the world" appears in multiple poems. Why do you think this phrase is repeated? What is the effect of the repetition on you, the reader?
3. How do you think this book is relevant in today's social climate? Is it relatable for young readers today? If so, which themes from the book continue to be relevant in the lives of young children in the United States?
4. Do you think it's important for people who don't necessarily identify with Jacqueline's specific experience to read this book? Why or why not?

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, 1020L**

Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure.

1. What inner traits does Brian develop to survive in the wilderness? To which of those qualities do you most attribute his survival? Consider patience, self-control, perseverance, etc.
2. What is the significance of the title? Why would Gary Paulsen have chosen "hatchet" as the name of his book? What does the hatchet symbolize?
3. *Hatchet* is a coming-of-age story—in the extreme. Once rescued and returned to civilization, how has Brian's survival experience changed him? In what way is he a different boy than the one who stepped on the plane at the beginning of the story?