



7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2023

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.

Directions: All questions should be written using complete sentences and be at least 65 words in length, either written neatly on lined paper or typed on a Google Doc and shared with either Mrs. Hartke or Mr. Moore. hartkel@tapestryschool.org or moorej@tapestryschool.org

Due Date: Friday, September 29th, 2023

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

Read *American Born Chinese* online [here!](#)

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 was Jin 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.
4. 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 Wishing Spell (The Land of Stories book #1) by Chris Colfer, 720L

Read *The Wishing Spell* online [here!](#)

Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change, in this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales.

The Land of Stories tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

1. In *The Wishing Spell*, siblings Conner and Alex Bailey receive a fairy-tale book as a gift from their grandmother, and they must identify the life lessons contained within the stories for a school project. What lessons are present in those fairy tales?
2. Conner and Alex must work together as a team to succeed in the Land of Stories. What about Conner and Alex's relationship and teamwork is so important to their success inside the Land of Stories?
3. Both Conner and Alex have their own individual strengths. Talk about what you think makes Alex and Conner strong individually as characters. How do their different personalities help or hinder their progress throughout *The Wishing Spell*?
4. Write about the twins' grandmother's reveal at the end of the book. How you think Conner and Alex's family history will play a part in book 2.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson, 930L

Read *Brown Girl Dreaming* online [here!](#)

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?
2. Where does she start to see change happening in the world in which she lives?
3. The phrase "ready to change the world" appears in multiple poems. Why do you think this phrase is repeated?
4. What is the effect of the repetition of "ready to change the world" on you, the reader?
5. How do you think this book is relevant in today's social climate?
6. Is the book relatable for young readers today? Why or why not?
7. 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

Read *Hatchet* online [here!](#)

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?
2. Which of those traits (from question #1) do you most attribute to his survival?
3. What is the significance of the title?
4. What does the hatchet symbolize?
5. *Hatchet* is a coming-of-age story—in the extreme. Once rescued and returned to civilization, how has Brian's survival experience changed him?
6. In what way is he a different boy than the one who stepped on the plane at the beginning of the story?

Summer Reading Rubric

	Advanced (88-100)	Proficient (76-87)	Adequate (65-75)	Inadequate (0-64)
Effort / Style	All responses were written in meaningful and complete sentences with a clear voice.	Most responses were written in meaningful and complete sentences with clear student voice.	More than half of the responses were simple comments or summaries that showed little effort.	Very brief and/or missing responses.
Quality of thought	Responses demonstrate depth, analysis and interpretation of the text as a whole.	Responses mostly show depth of thought, analysis and interpretation made with the text.	Most responses are surface level, with very little depth of analysis.	Responses demonstrate little or no attempt to analyze or interpret.
Interaction with text	Deeply interacted/ connected with text	Interacted/connected with text on higher than surface level	Somewhat interacted/ connected with novel	Clearly did not interact or connect with the text.