



Inspire. Learn. Achieve.

Van Gundy/7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2021

Part 1 - Read: Each student must read the required book over the summer. Be prepared to discuss the book and complete several related assignments upon returning to school for the new academic year.

Par 2 - Write: Complete the attached End of Book sheet. Please read all directions carefully before completing the assignment.

Part 3 - Read Again: Select any full-length, grade-level novel to read for your enjoyment. There is a list with suggestions attached to this assignment. Be prepared to discuss your chosen novel and complete a series of small assignments during the first week of school in order to reflect upon your reading and to demonstrate your comprehension.

7th Grade Required Reading

Preus, Margi: *Heart of a Samurai*

Historical fiction

A 2011 Newbery Honor Book

It is 1841 and fourteen-year old Manjiro and his four friends find themselves stranded on a deserted island after a storm at sea. Beyond the island is the unknown, filled with monsters and demons and barbarians, or so they have been told. They know they cannot return to their home in Japan—the country's borders are closed to foreigners and to citizens who have strayed.

One day, an American whaling vessel passes near the island and takes the castaways aboard. Manjiro joins in the work of the ship, eager to learn everything he can about this strange new culture. Over the next ten years, he travels the high seas, visiting places he never dreamed existed, including America. But deep down he longs to return home and somehow—though he knows it is impossible for a simple fisherman—become a samurai.

Will Manjiro ever be able to get back to his native land? And if he does, will he be welcomed or condemned?

End of Novel Data Sheet

Answer the following questions neatly and in complete sentences. **Ten points will be taken off for incorrect spelling, punctuation, or capitalization.** Papers that are difficult to read will need to be rewritten and will be scored as late. Remember to provide plenty of detail in your answers. The lines must be filled in completely in order to receive full credit.

Title _____

Author _____

Genre _____

Describe the primary **setting** (includes time and place) of the story in detail.

Identify the **protagonist**. Describe his or her most important (to the novel) actions, feelings, and personality traits.

What is the initial **conflict** that helps create the rising action in the story? This is the beginning problem that moves the story forward.

What happens in the **climax** of the story? This is the turning point in the story when the problem seems like it won't get resolved.

What happens in the **resolution** of the story?

The next section focuses on major topics and symbols. Topics are large abstract ideas like: change, citizenship, courage, custom and convention, democracy, desire, duty, emotion, family, fate, form, and happiness. Select two topics that are important to the story. State one topic for number one and a different topic for number two; on the lines explain how these topics are important to the story. In addition to the two topics, select two objects that appear frequently in the story. Explain the symbolism of what each object represents in the story. Again, all lines must be filled in completely in order to receive full credit.

1. Topic:

2. Concept:

3. Object:

4. Object:

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED TITLES:

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Mystery

L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Meg's physicist father had been experimenting with the fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. One dark and stormy night, the family is visited by a disheveled heap of a woman named Mrs. Whatsit. Eccentric and brilliant, she turns out to be the force who spurs Meg, Charles Wallace, and their new friend, Calvin O'Keefe, to embark on a dangerous quest through space to find their father. In doing so, they must travel behind the shadow of an evil power that is darkening the cosmos.
Tolkien, J. R. R.	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who is whisked away on an adventure by a wizard and some dwarves. Together, they launch a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by a dangerous dragon.
Stead, Rebecca	<i>When You Reach Me</i>	Four mysterious letters change Miranda's world forever. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death-until the final note makes her think she's too late.

Realistic Fiction

Draper, Sharon	<i>Out of My Mind</i>	A story of heartache and triumph about a girl with a brilliant mind who cannot speak or write.
Muñoz Ryan, Pam	<i>Becoming Naomi Leon</i>	The biggest problem Naomi has is her extra-long name. But then everything starts to go haywire. Her quiet life with Gram is shattered when her mom shows up -- and wants Naomi with her. Will a search for Naomi's father in Mexico help her situation or just make it more complicated?
Paulson, Gary	<i>Hatchet</i>	Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. 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.

Non-Fiction

Sheinkin, Steve	<i>Bomb</i>	A gripping narrative of the race between countries, spies, and scientists to create the first atomic bomb.
Bascomb, Neil	<i>The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi</i>	Recounts how, 16 years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann, in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust.
Yousafzai, Malala with Christina Lamb	<i>I Am Malala</i>	The Nobel Peace Prize winner and teenage activist recounts her path to learning. <i>I Am Malala</i> tells the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education.

Historical Fiction

Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Treasure Island</i>	Seen through the eyes of Jim Hawkins, the cabin boy of the Hispaniola, the action-packed adventure describes a perilous sea journey across the Spanish Main, a mutiny led by the infamous Long John Silver, and a lethal scramble for buried treasure on an exotic isle.
Hesse, Karen	<i>Witness</i>	Leanora, an African-American, and Esther, who is Jewish, live in a small Vermont town in 1924. No one is safe, especially these two, when the Ku Klux Klan moves in and their own town turns against them.
Twain, Mark	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Follow the pranks, adventures, and fun of Tom Sawyer, a boy growing up in a Mississippi River town in the early 19th century. Enjoy his most memorable adventures: from Tom's tricks to manipulate everyone to do his work for him to Tom's scary night lost in a cave.
Cushman, Karen	<i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i>	The year is 1290 and Catherine's father wants to see his rebellious daughter married to a proper, wealthy gentleman, ignoring what Catherine desires. Armed with only her sharp tongue and clever tricks, Catherine will do everything possible to save herself from what she considers a terrible fate.