

6TH GRADE SUMMER READING

Required Books:

1. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson and Donna Diamond

Optional Books (pick ONE):

1. *Faith, Hope, and Ivy June* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
2. *The Kite Fighters* by Linda Sue Park

Directions for *Bridge to Terabithia*:

For this novel, there will be a Novel Test within the first month of school. Prior to the test, we will review the novel as a class, discuss the highlights including main characters, setting, plot, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. As you read the novel over the summer, you will be responsible for taking “Novel Notes” (refer to the attached handout). These will be checked the first academic day of class.

Direction for *Faith, Hope and Ivy June* or *The Kite Fighters*:

For this novel, there will not be a novel test. Instead, You must pick 7 important objects from the story and explain each object’s significance in a paragraph. For example, if one of your summer reading novels was “Snow White,” you might choose the poisoned apple as one of your important objects. In your paragraph, you would explain that the evil Queen gave Snow White the poisoned apple because she was jealous of her beauty. The apple is also what eventually brought Prince Charming to Snow White’s rescue. In fact, you could say that without the apple, much of the story could not have happened in the first place.

Each paragraph must be typed, double-spaced, and a minimum of 7 sentences long. Each paragraph must adequately explain why the object you chose is essential to the story.

Helpful Hints:

1. Refer to the attached handouts if you have any questions about Novel Notes or how they will be graded.
2. If, during the summer, you want to double-check your paragraphs with me or if you have ANY questions whatsoever about this assignment, you can email me at dberge@stgregs-sanmateo.org. I will try to get back to you in a couple of days, but don’t wait until the last minute to ask for help!!!!

NOVEL NOTES

“Novel Notes” is a note-taking system that allows you, the student, to take notes directly in your book. If you follow these simple steps, not only will you understand your novel better, but you will also be able to discuss it in class or write about it on a test more comprehensively.

Steps For Reading Your Novel:

1. Buy a copy of your novel. This way, you can write directly in it!
2. Usually the front cover or the first inside page is blank. Title one of these first pages “Characters,” and use it to record names and details of the main characters in the novel as you come across them in your reading. As you read more of your novel, add important details about each main character.
3. Usually the back cover or the last inside page is blank. Title one of these last pages “Themes,” and use it to list the themes in the novel as you come across them in your reading. Also, record the page number you find each theme on.
4. When you finish a chapter, use whatever blank space is on the last page of the chapter to write a brief summary of it. For example, record any new characters that were introduced in the chapter as well as important events that happened. Use bullet points to do this.
5. As you read, make notes in the margin of your book. Make note of figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, and words that might have special meaning in the novel, such as slang words and colloquialisms.
6. As you read, underline or highlight special words, unfamiliar words, the first time a character is introduced to you, and key points. DO NOT underline or highlight more than ONE sentence at a time. ***Good underlining and highlighting allows you to find information in your novel quickly; too much underlining and highlighting defeats its own purpose.

Reviewing Your Novel:

1. When you pick up your novel to read a new chapter, quickly review what you have already read. This will help you recall what you have previously read so you can be prepared to answer discussion questions in class or take a test on a given chapter.
2. Use your Novel Notes to study for quizzes and tests or when you need to write a paper on your novel. Looking at the notes you have taken will help you find information, such as quotes, to make your test or essay better.

NOVEL NOTES

SELF-ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

On the Novel: Bridge to Terabithia

Directions: Put a check next to the option that BEST describes how you feel you performed on your Novel Notes.

_____ I worked really hard to keep notes on this novel. I have margin notes throughout each chapter and some highlighting, too. I've summarized the main events for each chapter in bullet points at the end. A list of characters and brief notes about each is on the inside front cover of my book. Themes of this novel are listed on the back inside cover, including the point in the book when the themes emerge.

_____ I put in a good amount of effort to keep notes on this novel. I have a lot of margin notes as well as some highlighting scattered throughout the book. Each chapter has some bullet points at the end of it to summarize what happened. I have included the names of characters on the inside front cover, and the back inside cover has a list of themes.

_____ I put minimal effort into keeping notes on this novel. I have made some margin notes, but I was not consistent about it. Most chapters have some summary bullet points at the end of them. I have names of most characters on the inside front cover, and some of the themes are listed on the back inside cover.

_____ I made an attempt at keeping notes on this novel. I have a few margin notes, and some chapters have been summarized in bullet points. I started listing the characters on the inside front cover, but I didn't stick with it. The back inside cover has a theme or two listed... or there might be none.

_____ I completely blew it on the task of keeping novel notes. You may find some notes here and there, but no real effort was made.

_____ I didn't write anything in my book.

Signed _____