



June 2022

Dear Sixth Grade Students:

As part of your preparation for the upcoming academic year, you will be asked to read two books over the summer. You will also provide documentation for each of the two books read. Please read both assignments carefully. A step-by-step format is provided, but above all, please make the selections that seem most enjoyable to you!

All work is to be brought in on the first day of classes. It is strongly suggested that you do read more than the required two books. I have provided a list of other books that may be of interest, or read others of your own choosing.

Have a great summer!
Mr. Matt Beard

INCOMING Sixth Graders

The two books are The Misfits by James Howe and The Wave by Todd Strasser.

Both books may be purchased through Barnes and Noble or Amazon.

If you would like to do additional reading, here are some suggested books, suitable for sixth graders.

Long Walk to Water or A Single Shard, both by Linda Sue Park

Rules by Cynthia Lord

I Am Malala: How One Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai

Marching for Freedom by Elizabeth Partridge

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

ASSIGNMENTS

What to do:

A) The Misfits by James Howe

You will write a letter to me, your English teacher, Mr. Matt Beard, and bring it with you on the first day of school, detailing your thoughts on The Misfits. I am very much looking forward to hearing from you and want you to know I am most interested in your personal response to the book. In your letter include enough detail so I know you read carefully. Remember, this is not a summary of the plot. I want to know what you think.

Reminder: make sure to write a friendly letter with correct format (date, greeting, body, closing and signature).

Pointers:

Be sure to say enough. Letters should be about one and a half to two pages handwritten or typed. If handwritten, please use a blue or black pen. Here are some suggestions for what you can include in your letter. You may choose one or two of the following, but you do not have to use all. The point of this assignment is to demonstrate understanding of the text you read by using correct format and using supporting evidence to make your points.

-Offer your opinion on what the speaker [narrator] or another character says or does or how he/she is described.

-Ask a question based on what you wonder about. That is, what do you think the author is trying to say here or why does a character do or say something? Then write a response to this question. Your question should be open-ended, one that cannot be answered yes or no, but rather one that can be answered in many ways, depending on your opinion of what the author is trying to say.

-What do you like about the writing itself . . . how do you notice specific language the author uses and how does it grab you, what does it make you feel and think. Try to explain why you like the writing . . . is it the word choice? Is it the many vivid descriptions? Vivid characters described in detail? Mention any “poetic devices” such as simile and metaphor or details that appeal to our sense of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste.

-Describe how you felt [saddened, hopeful, relieved, angry, etc.] while reading, then try to explain why you may have felt the way you did.

DON'T SUMMARIZE!!!

B) The Wave by Todd Strasser

Directions: Choose one of the following assignments to complete and be prepared to present it to the class upon our return after summer vacation.

1. **COMIC BOOK.** Turn the novel into a comic book. Draw and narrate a comic version of the novel using characters and situations in the novel. For your presentation, you must display and read your comic book to the class. Be prepared to answer questions about the comic book.
2. **DIARY:** Choose one of the characters from the novel (any character other than Ben Ross) and create a diary or journal entries in that character's voice. The journal entries should be set during the course of the novel, not before or after. For your presentation, you will need to explain which character you chose and read at least two entries from your character's story.
3. **SOUNDTRACK:** Choose a character from the novel and create a soundtrack for their life. Find at least four songs that reflect the character's personality and current life situation. No explicit lyrics. Put these songs onto a flash drive to share with the class and create an album cover for the soundtrack. In addition, you will need to write one or two paragraphs for each song, explaining why you chose it. For your presentation, you must share clips from each song on your soundtrack and explain why you feel they represent the character.
4. **NARRATIVE:** It is five years after the conclusion of the book. What is Ben Ross doing? Create a story using dialogue and narration examining the status of the character Ben Ross. How has he changed because of the events that took place during the novel? For your presentation, you must act out a portion of your scene.
5. **MOVIE TRAILER:** It is 2019 and you are the producer of a big movie studio. You have decided to make a film version of The Wave. Come up with a list of actors to play each character, provide a rationale (why you picked these actors) for each acting choice. Develop and act out a movie trailer/advertisement to perform in front of the class.

Above all, have a wonderful time reading this summer!

