

Seventh Grade Summer Reading Response

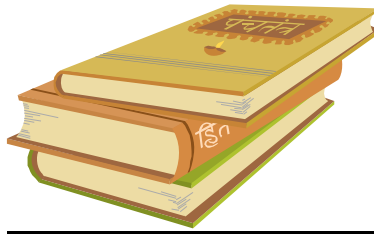
Dear Viper Families,

This summer our upcoming seventh grade students have a wonderful opportunity to expand their reading, writing, and thinking skills. In seventh grade we explore different types of reading and writing and the purposes they serve, and we learn to look at books as authors trying to understand the author's craft. To begin our interaction with books, students will choose a book from the list, read it entirely, and create a reading response. This is due on the first day of school. The summer reading response journal is a way to prepare students for success in the rigorous high school honors, AP, and IB programs.

Please review and discuss the summer reading response journal description and book lists with your students. We look forward to the thoughtful responses to these books and the chance to get to know your child better. We thank you for your continued support in your child's academic success.

Sincerely,

Vista Magnet Middle School Teachers and Staff



7th Grade Summer Reading Project

Assignment: Reading Response Journal

Area of Interaction: Approaches to Learning

Subject: Language Arts

Essential Question(s):

1. How do we successfully interact with text?
2. How can we critically determine an author's point of view?
3. How do we interpret main ideas through the use of textual evidence?

Standard(s):

- Reading Comprehension 2.7 I can make reasonable assertions about a text through accurate supporting citations.
- Reading Comprehension 3.2 I can analyze the effect of the qualities of the character (e.g., courage or cowardice, ambition or laziness) on the plot and the resolution of the conflict.
- Writing Strategies 2.4 I can develop an interpretation exhibiting careful reading understanding, and insight and develop and justify the interpretation through sustained use of example and textual evidence.

Deadline: (first day of the new school year)

Description:

Seventh grade is the year of writing. During the year we will be engaging in Writers' Workshop as we explore different types of reading and writing and the purposes they serve. To learn a little bit more about you, we'd like you to write a reading response about a novel of your choice. When writing your response, you will follow the outline we've given you. This is an excellent opportunity to show your new Language Arts teacher what you've learned about the characters, while sharing a little bit about you.

you will need to follow the steps below and use the attached outline to guide you through this project:

1. Chose a book from the list provided.
2. Read the book carefully paying close attention to the characters and how you are similar or different to the characters.
3. Write a response essay using the outline that has been provided.
4. Turn it in on the first day of school.

Seventh Grade Summer Reading List

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders."

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Two social outcasts become firm friends in this novel that inspired the feature film *The Mighty*.

The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake

A misfit 7th grader learns to love herself with the help of an inspirational teacher.

Slam! by Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Taking Sides by Gary Soto

A middle-school basketball player transfers to an affluent school, but he has to face his old team from the barrio on the court.

Name
Core
Date

Reading Response Essay Outline

Introduction

The title and author of the novel you chose.
A brief summary of what you have read so far.

Body

Paragraph 2

How has the main character changed from the beginning to the end of the story? Write a paragraph about how the character has changed in the story. **Be sure to include textual examples (citations) to support your thoughts and ideas.**

Paragraph 3

How are you like similar and/or different to the main character? Write a paragraph about your similarities and/or differences to the main character. **Be sure to include textual examples (citations) to support your thoughts and ideas.**

Paragraph 4

How have you grown and changed in your sixth grade year? Write a paragraph about how you have grown and changed in your sixth grade year.

Conclusion

What kinds of thoughts, feeling, and reactions did you have while you were reading this novel? Write a paragraph about your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the novel.

Grading Rubric:

Response Journal	4	3	2	1
Criterion A: Content	The journal shows a perceptive understanding of your novel. There is a sophisticated analysis of the literary work with a variety of thoughtful questions, connections, illustrations, clarifications, lines, thoughts and feelings using textual examples (citations).	The journal shows a sufficient understanding of your novel. There is an adequate analysis of the literary work with a variety of questions, connections, illustrations, clarifications, lines, thoughts and feelings using textual examples (citations) to support the ideas.	The journal shows a limited understanding of your novel. There is some analysis of the literary work with a little variety of questions, connections, illustrations, clarifications, lines, thoughts and feelings using some textual examples (citations) to support the ideas.	The journal shows a very limited understanding of your novel. There is a very limited analysis of the literary work with very little variety of questions, connections, illustrations, clarifications, lines, thoughts and feelings using few or no textual examples (citations) to support the ideas.
Criterion B: Organization	The journal is well organized, very clear and coherent and effectively develops the ideas being expressed in a sophisticated manner.	The journal is organized, clear and coherent and develops the ideas being expressed in an appropriate manner.	The journal is somewhat organized, somewhat clear and coherent and develops the ideas being expressed in a limited manner.	The journal is minimally organized, clear and coherent and develops the ideas being expressed in a very limited manner.
Criterion C: Style and Language Usage	The journal demonstrates appropriate and varied use of vocabulary with very infrequent errors in spelling, punctuation and syntax.	The journal appropriate and varied use of vocabulary with infrequent errors in spelling, punctuation and syntax.	The journal demonstrates appropriate and varied use of vocabulary frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and syntax that may distract the reader.	The journal demonstrates appropriate and varied use of vocabulary with many errors in spelling, punctuation and syntax that distract the reader.