



Hillel Day School of Boca Raton

Sixth Grade English

Summer Reading List 2011

Directions: For the summer reading assignment, you must read **two** of the following six books.

- Use the provided list to make your selection.
- Please purchase the novels instead of checking them out from the library as you will be asked to have your texts in class during the early weeks of the school year.
- Be a careful reader to prepare yourself for the literary activities we will engage in prior to the **in-class essay assessments** as well as **writing assignments** on the books you have read.
- For **each** novel selected, you must also complete the **pre-writing assignment** enclosed in this summer reading packet. A copy of the pre-writing assignment can also be located in a downloadable form on the EdLine homepage.
- Enjoy your reading!
- Have a fantastic summer!

1. *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen (ISBN: 0142401099)

Twelve-year-old Hannah is tired of remembering the horrors of the Holocaust. Living in the present time United States, Hannah dreads going to her family's Passover seder because all they talk about is the past. But when she opens the door for Elijah, she is transferred to Poland during the height of the Nazi occupation in 1942; there, Hannah becomes Chaya, and only she knows the horror that awaits the Jews.

2. *The Homecoming* by Cynthia Voigt (ISBN: 0689863616)

Already abandoned by their father, the Tillerman kids, Dicey, James, Sammy, and Maybeth, find themselves deserted by their mother. The children watch their mother disappear into the mall crowd and thirteen-year-old Dicey is left making all the important decisions for these orphaned children. She must cook for them, care for them, and find someone to love them before the foster care authorities attempt to separate her family.

3. *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery (ISBN: 0553153277)

In this beloved classic, an aging brother and sister living on a farm in Maryland wish to adopt an orphan boy, but instead they end up with Anne. Anne is a bright girl, eager to please, and overcome with a love for life. Anne must experience a series of adventures and misadventures in order to really grow from a young girl into a young woman.

4. *The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg (ISBN: 0689817215)

In this Newbery Medal winning book, Konigsburg recounts a wonderful and hysterical tale of four students who develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Sure, the four sixth graders are intelligent, they work well together, and they practice hard, but what is the mysterious bond that links these four underdogs and makes them victorious time and time again?

5. *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor (ISBN: 0440416639)

Eleven-year-old Phillip Enright endures a life-threatening adventure at sea in 1942 after his freighter, the Hato, is torpedoed by a German submarine. In his quest for survival, Phillip must overcome his racial and cultural prejudices as well as a serious physical disability in this Robinson Crusoe setting.

6. *The Great Good Thing* by Roderick Townley (ISBN: 0689853289)

Sylvie has been a twelve-year-old princess for eighty years, ever since her very own fairytale was first printed. However, she only gets to play her part when a reader flips through the pages of her book and starts the action. Sylvie eventually makes the dangerous discovery that she can travel beyond the pages of her book and into the dreams of her readers. But when a mischievous boy burns the pages of Sylvie's book, how will she handle herself in the dreams of her most devoted reader, Claire?

*Note: This document is
also available on the
EdLine homepage!*

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English Department
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Sixth Grade English

Summer Reading Pre-Writing Assignment

Name: _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Use the space provided to **answer the questions** below.

- Write your answers in **complete sentences**.
- Be sure to write **neatly** and **legibly**.
- Turn in this assignment to your English teacher on the **second day of class, 8/23**.
- Do your best!

Character

- A **character** is a person or animal who takes part in a literary work.
- Almost every book revolves around one or more main characters, called **protagonists**.
 - The protagonist changes from the beginning of the novel to the end.

Who is the **protagonist** of this novel? (If perhaps there is more than one protagonist, pick!)

Characteristics and Traits

- A **characteristic** or **trait** is a feature that helps identify or distinguish a character from the other characters in the story. In a story, the characteristics of the protagonist are what set him or her apart from the other characters in the story.
- Characteristics can be **external**, like a character's appearance.
 - External traits can be anything from height and hair color to abilities and talents.
 - Some external traits are more important than others! Choose one that is important to the story!

Identify one of the protagonist's important **external traits**.

- *Why is this trait important in the novel?*
-

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Characteristics and Traits

- Characteristics can be also **internal**, like a character's personality.
 - Internal traits are a character's emotions, beliefs, attitudes, or fears; internal traits are what make a character's personality unique.
 - Some internal traits are more important than others! Choose one that is important to the story!

Identify one of the protagonist's important **internal traits**.

- *Why is this trait important in the novel?*
-

Goal

- In most stories, the protagonist has a **goal**—something that he or she wants to accomplish.
- A character can have more than one goal, and a character's goals can change throughout the story.
 - Most protagonists have one main (most important) goal.
 - A goal isn't necessarily something external or internal!

What is the protagonist's **goal**?

Conflict

- Most protagonists have a main (most important) **conflict**: an enemy, obstacle, or problem that he or she has to overcome. Many stories have more than one conflict.
- The main conflict of the story is usually what stops the protagonist from reaching his or her goal.
 - Just like the goal, the main conflict isn't necessarily something external or physical!

What is the main **conflict** of this novel?

How does this **conflict** stop the protagonist from reaching his or her goal?

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Sixth Grade English

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Identify one of the protagonist's important **external traits**.

- *Why is this trait important in the novel?*
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