



## Hillel Day School of Boca Raton Seventh Grade English Summer Reading List 2011

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**Directions:** For the summer reading assignment, you must read **three** 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** administered 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. *Swindle* by Gordon Korman (ISBN: 0439903459)

When a mean collector named Swindle cons Griffin Bing out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card. With many things standing in their way, Griffin and his team are going to get back what is rightfully his.

2. *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo (ISBN: 0763618985)

Eleven-year-old Rob Horton finds a caged tiger in the woods behind the hotel where he lives with his father. With the help of his new friend Sistine Bailey, Rob must decide what to do with his discovery, and at the same time, come to terms with the sad events from his past and his present life.

3. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton (ISBN: 014038572X)

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

4. *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (ISBN: 0152057803)

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness, and he slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

5. *Dacey's Song* by Cynthia Voigt (ISBN: 0689851316)

Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey finds that their new beginning requires love, trust, humor, and courage. Dacey experiences the joys and pains of making a new life and letting go of the past. (*This book can be read as a companion to Voigt's book, Homecoming, or on its own.*)

6. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years* by Livia Bitton-Jackson (ISBN: 0689823959)

This Holocaust memoir documents what happens to a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl when the Nazis invade Hungary in 1944.

# Seventh Grade English

## Summer Reading Pre-Writing Assignment

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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!)

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### 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**.

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

### 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!

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

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**?

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Why is the **goal** important to the protagonist?

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What is stopping the protagonist from reaching this **goal**?

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### **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?

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

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## Resolution

- In most stories, the protagonist's conflicts and experiences cause him or her to change or learn a valuable lesson. The part of the story where the character learns this valuable lesson or realizes that he or she has changed is called the **resolution**.
  - The resolution is the final outcome of the story.
  - It's where all the loose ends are tied up!

*Describe how the protagonist changes from the beginning to the end of the story.*

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*Does the protagonist learn any important lessons? If so, what?*

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## Theme

- The **theme** of the story is a broad statement about life or human nature. The theme is not *what* happens in the story (that's the plot!) – the theme is *why* it matters.
  - Ask yourself what's the author's point – why did he or she write the story?
  - Consider what the protagonist learns in the story; often that's a clue to the story's theme!
  - A story can have more than one theme, but most stories have one **main theme**.

*What do you think is the main theme of this novel?*

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*Why do you think this is the theme?*

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  - External traits can be anything from height and hair color to abilities and talents.
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Identify one of the protagonist's important **external traits**.

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- *Why is this trait important in the novel?*
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### Characteristics and Traits

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

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