



Middle School Summer Reading Project

Due August 29



During the summer of 2014, all students who are entering grades 6-8 will read one book from the following list and complete one of the projects listed below:

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Parks
Schooled by Gordon Korman *The Unwanteds* by Lisa McMann

Create a diary or journal in the voice of a character from your book. Choose three major events from the novel and give your chosen character's impressions and reflections on those events. Why are these events important? Be sure to go beyond the obvious. Sure, he might have been worried about starting school, but how would he write about that in a journal? What thoughts are racing through her mind? Pick this project if you feel like the book's characters really came alive for you. You must write at least 12-15 journal entries. The project should be 200-600 words (1-3 typed pages, double spaced.)

Discover the book's relevance for you. If you like to write personal essays, full of your own opinions, don't limit yourself to a blasé "I liked this book because..." kind of review. Think about what--aside from liking or not liking it--you got out of reading this novel. Did the plot help you in some way to become a better person? Select this project if you consider yourself opinionated and like to share your views. You must cite evidence from the text (specific quotations that you feel relate to your point of view.) *This option is strongly suggested for Honors students.* The essay should be 200-600 words (1-3 typed pages, double spaced.)

Make a movie trailer featuring your book. If you have Windows, chances are you have Movie Maker without even knowing about it. If it's your first time making a movie on the computer, though, think about downloading Microsoft's Photo Story. It's free and simple to use and has enough features (photo effects, neat transitions, the ability to add music) that you can create a pretty cool product. Choose this project if you dream about being the next Steven Spielberg or M. Night Shyamalan. Your final movie should be a professional-looking 5-7 minutes long.

Write a pamphlet or handbook for people traveling to the place and time of your book. Introduce the culture and describe any differences in lifestyles and beliefs that travelers from your place and time should know about. What do the people there eat? What kinds of jobs are available? What behaviors are considered polite or rude? What do the people think is most important in life? Your pamphlet should be fully show your understanding of the book.

Create a newspaper for your book. Summarize the plot in one article, cover the weather in another, do a feature story on one of the more interesting characters in another. Include an editorial and collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story. Your newspaper must include at least 5 stories and should be laid out as a newspaper.

Biography and Sketch. Choose one character in the novel and write a 300 word biography. The biography should explain where the character lives, the conflict(s) the character faces in the novel, tell about their family life, and summarize the resolution or ending of the novel. Then draw a sketch of the character. The sketch can be a head and shoulder picture or a scene from the novel. The sketch must be in color. The project will be presented by the student *as the character*. Share with the class all of the above information in first person – speak in the character's style, and come dressed as the character. Include any important props that will make your presentation more realistic. **Both the sketch and the biography must be mounted to poster board. Drawings must fill the page and must be no smaller than 8 ½ x 11 unlined paper.**

Write the next chapter. Did you not want the book to end? What happens to the characters *after* the book is over? Do your best to imitate the author's style. This should be 200 – 600 words (1 - 3 typed pages), double-spaced, and include dialogue.

A gentle reminder: Plagiarism is a big deal. Any time you turn in someone else's work as your own, whether you found it on the internet or borrowed it from their computer, you are plagiarizing. All plagiarized assignments will be given a zero. Don't be tempted!

Scoring Rubric

Distinguished (95–100 points)	<p>Outstanding work, fully meets all requirements</p> <p>Exhaustive coverage</p> <p>Completely understands problem and has ability to apply data to the solution</p> <p>Shows originality</p>
Highly Proficient (90–94 points)	<p>Excellent work, meets all requirements of task, good breadth</p> <p>Well planned and documented</p> <p>Shows fine understanding and ability to apply data to the solution of the problem</p> <p>Shows evidence of creativity</p>
Proficient (80–89 points)	<p>Fine or good work, meets requirements of task</p> <p>Good breadth of coverage, fairly well planned and documented</p> <p>Shows a good understanding and ability to apply data to the solution of new problems</p> <p>Could show more evidence of creative thinking</p>
Suggests Proficiency (70–79 points)	<p>Fair work, meets some requirements of the task</p> <p>Fair breadth of coverage with some gaps</p> <p>Shows an uneven understanding with some, but not complete, ability to apply data to the solution of the problem</p> <p>Needs to fill gaps</p>
Suggests Lack of Proficiency (65–69 points)	<p>Uneven work, meets some requirements of the task</p> <p>Poor breadth of coverage with a number of gaps in coverage</p> <p>Little understanding and ability to apply data to problem solving</p> <p>Needs to improve in significant areas</p>
Lacks Proficiency (below 65 points)	<p>Poor work, meets some requirements of the task</p> <p>Little to no breadth of coverage</p> <p>Little understanding and makes no significant attempt to apply data to solution of the problem</p>