

June 2018

Dear Incoming 7th Grade Students & Parents,

Congratulations on your completion of 6th grade! I look forward to being your English teacher in the Fall!

For the 2018-2019 school year, you will need to read three books:

Required Reading - *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed

*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt

Enrichment Reading - Choice of novel from the provided reading list

**Please purchase a personal copy of *Amal Unbound* as it will be used in the classroom throughout the year for English and Religion. Make notes while you read using the Notice & Note signposts!!!**

We will review the two required novels during the school year. If you tend to read more slowly, try to begin reading early in the summer. Please be prepared to discuss any aspect of the novels. You may also keep a record of your reactions to the reading, questions that you may have, and comments that you will want to make in September.

In addition to reading three books, you will complete a writing assignment. The writing assignment is designed to show your knowledge of the 5-paragraph essay and your understanding of applying textual evidence. It will be helpful to read through the assignment before reading the book, so you know what to highlight and note. Please add your notes regarding plot on the graphic organizer included. This writing assignment will be your first grade for 7th Grade ELA. **You must submit your essay to the Google Classroom for your grade by Tuesday, September 4th @ 12am.**

**Google Classroom: 7th Grade Summer Reading  
Classroom Code: qxq9q7l**

I hope that you will enjoy these selections. I will be happy to answer questions over the summer at the following email address listed below. Have a wonderful summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lauren Schmitt  
7th & 8th Grade ELA  
[lschmitt@scmoq.org](mailto:lschmitt@scmoq.org)

## Annotations

Please make at least two annotations per chapter in the book that you purchase over the summer. These are due the day we return to school (Tuesday, September 5, 2018). You can choose to write them directly in your novel, on post-it notes, or in a notebook.

## Signposts Notice & Note to look for while reading:

**Contrasts & Contradictions:** When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements. Text clue: Author shows feelings or actions the reader hasn't seen before & doesn't expect. Ask yourself: Why is the character doing that?

**Aha! Moment:** When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something. Text clue: Characters say "I realized..." or "I suddenly knew..." or "Now I know why..." Ask yourself: How might this change things?

**Tough Questions:** When a character asks herself a very difficult question. Text clue: Character asks self or another a hard question. Ask yourself: What does this question make me wonder about?

**Words of the Wiser:** When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the protagonist aside and offers serious advice. Text clue: A wiser, often older, character offers a life lesson, usually in a quiet moment. Ask yourself: What is the life lesson and how might it affect the character?

**Again & Again:** When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over. Text clue: A repeated image, phrase, or reference. Ask yourself: Why does this keep happening again and again?

**Memory Moment:** When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory. Text clue: "I suddenly remembered..." or "I remember..." or "Thinking back..." Ask yourself: Why might this memory be important?

Adapted from Notice & (Beers & Probst 2013)

## *The Wednesday Wars* Theme Analysis

Due: Tuesday, September 4, 2017

### Brainstorming/Reflection Questions for Theme Analysis (you do not need to provide answers to your teacher)

1. What important idea or theme does this literary work convey?
2. What do characters *do* that helps illustrate this idea?
3. What do characters *say* that helps to illustrate this idea?
4. What *events* take place in the work that help to illustrate this idea?
5. Are there any recurrent images or clusters of images? Do these images support the idea or theme that you find in the work?

### Writing Your Essay

First, pick one theme from *The Wednesday Wars* (list below) to write your analysis. Next, you need to form your thesis statement. After deciding on a thesis, you need to form a rough outline using the provided example. You will need to provide at least three examples from the book to illustrate the theme, which will be the components of your three body paragraphs. You will need two quotes per body paragraph, so 6 quotes all together. Do not rely on the quotes to explain themselves. You need to lead into the quote, and also comment on the quote after you quote it. You need to effectively show how the quote helps to prove your point.

**Themes:** coming of age, love and friendship, the power of a committed mentor, justice and fairness, personal growth, making choices, and independence.

### Outline

- Introduction Paragraph
  - Use a "hook" to grab the reader's attention
  - Use one or two sentences to express your personal opinions on the subject of the book
  - State the theme you conclude from the book (thesis)
  - Describe in general, how the author expresses such theme, i.e. by using characterization, symbolism, setting or conflicts, etc. (this will be where you lead in to your body paragraphs)
- Body—Write **three** paragraphs to explain how the author expresses the theme in his book. Each paragraph will focus on a different example of the theme. To describe each example, you need to include the following information.
  - What happened? What did the character do to show the theme?
  - What did the character say or think (quotes from the character, or the narrator)?
  - What is the consequence of his/her action?
  - Include a minimum of two direct quotes in each paragraph
- Conclusion Paragraph
  - Restate your theme
  - What did you think of the theme? How has it affected you?

*The Wednesday Wars* Plot Chart

Directions: Summarize each chapter in the novel by listing (in bullet points) the important events in the boxes below.

Chapter 1 September	
Chapter 2 October	
Chapter 3 November	
Chapter 4 December	
Chapter 5 January	

Chapter 6 February	
Chapter 7 March	
Chapter 8 April	
Chapter 9 May	
Chapter 10 June	

### Summer Reading Essay Rubric

CATEGORY	ADVANCED - 15	PROFICIENT - 12.5	BASIC - 10	MINIMAL - 7.5
<b>Ideas</b>	The paragraphs provide interpretations and draw conclusions that reflect clear and logical links between the details and the topic.	The paragraphs provide interpretations that are mostly valid and say something important about the topic.	Focus on basic ideas without much explanation.	The paragraphs are mostly comprised of ideas that suggest a lack of understanding of the topic.
<b>Evidence</b>	The body paragraphs includes 2 or more direct quotations from the text to support the topic.	The body paragraphs includes 2 direct quotations from the text, but lacks a clear explanation or connection.	The body paragraphs includes 1 direct quotation from the text to support the topic.	The body paragraphs do not direct quotations from the text to support the topic.
<b>Organization</b>	<p>Each paragraph's topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence flow well together.</p> <p>Sentences are in a logical order throughout the paragraphs.</p> <p>Transitions enhance the paper.</p>	<p>Each paragraph's topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence are in order.</p> <p>Sentences are placed in a logical order, but the writing is choppy in places.</p> <p>Transitions are simple but used accurately.</p>	<p>Each paragraph includes a topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence, but order is awkward.</p> <p>Each paragraph is structured in sentences, but ideas are hard to follow.</p> <p>Transitions used sparingly or incorrectly.</p>	<p>The paragraphs are missing one or more key requirements (topic sentence; supporting details; concluding sentence)</p> <p>There is little sense that the writing is organized.</p> <p>Transitions absent or consistently inappropriate.</p>
<b>Grammar and Mechanics</b>	Correct grammar and mechanics used with few to no mistakes; correct usage enhances writing	A few mistakes, but they do not affect understanding; mistakes mostly with complex structures	Mistakes are evident that affect the understanding; simple structures are mostly correct	Many mistakes throughout make it difficult to understand; mistakes with simple structures affect meaning.

## Summer Reading List --- Suggested Titles Grades 6th - 8th

### FICTION

Anderson, Laurie Halse.....Fever 1793  
Avi ..... Crispin: the Cross of Lead  
Barry, Dave..... Peter and the Shadow Thieves (series)  
Bloor, Edward..... Story Time; Tangerine  
Bowen, Fred..... Quarterback Season  
Burks, Brian..... Soldier Boy  
Card, Orson Scott.....Ender's Game  
Carroll, Michael..... Stronger: A Super Human Clash  
Choldenko, Gennifer.... Al Capone Shines my Shoes  
Clayton, Emma ..... The Roar  
Clement-Davies, D. . The Telling Pool  
Colfer, Eoin..... Artemis Fowl (series)  
Corder, Zizou..... Lion Boy (trilogy)  
Creech, Sharon.....Absolutely Normal Chaos; Walk Two Moons; Bloomability  
Crossley-Holland ..... The Seeing Stone (trilogy)  
Curtis, Christopher Paul.....Mighty Miss Malone  
Deuker, Carl..... Payback Time  
Dicamillo, Kate..... The Tiger Rising  
Dowd, Siobhan.....London Eye Mystery  
Doyle, Arthur C. .... The Hound of the Baskervilles  
Draper, Sharon.....Out of My Mind  
Flanagan, John ..... Ranger's Apprentice (series)  
Foon, Dennis..... The Dirt-Eaters  
Ford, Michael..... Birth of a Warrior (series)  
Gaiman, Neil .....Odd and the Frost Giants  
Gantos, Jack .....Dead End In Norvelt  
Gordon, Roderick....Tunnels (series)  
Grant, Michael .....Gone (series)  
Green, Tim .....Rivals  
Haddix, Margaret .....Double Identity  
Hahn, Mary .....The Ghost of Crutchfield Hall  
Hautman, Pete .....Mr. Was  
Hill, Will .....Department 19 (series)  
Hite, Sid .....The King of Slippery Falls  
Holman, Felice .....Slake's Limbo 121 Days  
Jacques, Brian .....Redwall (series)  
Jinks, Catherine.....The Genius Wars  
Korman, Gordon .....Masterminds; Schooled  
Larson, Kirby.....Hattie Big Sky  
Lubar, David .....Wizards of the Game  
Lupica, Mike .....Fantasy League  
MacDonald, Bailey ..Wicked Will  
Manes, Stephen .....An Almost Perfect Game  
McCaughrean, G. ....Cyrano  
McKay, Hilary .....Indigo's Star

Mikaelson, Ben .....Jungle of Bones  
 Miller, Ashley .....Colin Fischer  
 Myklusch, Matt..... The Accidental Hero  
 Paterson, Katherine.....Bridge to Terabithia  
 Patterson, James..... Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life  
 Paulsen, Gary..... Family Ties  
 Pearsall, Shelley..... All Shook Up  
 Peck, Richard..... A Long Way from Chicago; Horse Thief  
 Perkovich, O.R..... 8th Grade Superzero  
 Petersen, P.J..... Wild River  
 Philbrick, W.R. .... The Young Man and the Sea  
 Pratchett, Terry ..... Dodger  
 Preller, James..... Bystander  
 Raskin, Ellen.....The Westing Game  
 Riordan, Rick..... Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)  
 Rook, Sebastian ..... London, 1850 (series)  
 Roy, Jennifer..... Mindblind  
 Rupp, Rebecca ..... After Eli  
 Ryan, Pam Munoz.....Esperanza Rising; Becoming Naomi Leon  
 Salisbury, Graham ... Hunt for the Bamboo Rat  
 Schlitz, Laura Amy.....A Drowned Maiden's Hair  
 Schmatz, Pat ..... Bluefish  
 Schmidt, Gary ..... Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Darkness , Trouble  
 Shusterman, Neal.... Antsy Does Time  
 Sloan, Holly Goldberg.....Counting by 7s  
 Smith, Roland ..... Independence Hall (series); Beneath  
 Spinelli, Jerry..... Hokey Pokey  
 Stead, Rebecca..... Liar & Spy, When You Reach Me  
 Tashjian, Janet.....My Life as a Stuntboy  
 Thomson, John.....A Small Boat at the Bottom of the Sea  
 Walden, Mark..... H.I.V.E (series)  
 Wallace, Rich.....Dunk Under Pressure  
 Wells, Rosemary .....Red Moon at Sharpsburg  
 Wild, Kate .....Firefight  
 Wooding, Chris.....Silver  
 Woodson, Jacqueline.....Hush  
 Yancey, Richard.....The Extraordinary Adventures of of Alfred Kropp  
 Yee, Lisa .....Warp Speed

#### **NON-FICTION**

Allen, Thomas..... George Washington: Spymaster  
 Athans, Sandra..... Tales from the Top of The World: Climbing Mount Everest with Pete Athans  
 Bauer, Nona ..... Dog Heroes of Sept. 11th: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs  
 Bell, Lonnie ..... The Story of Coca Cola  
 Beyer, Rick ..... The Greatest Stories Never Told  
 Blackwood, Gary ..... Mysterious Messages: A History of Codes and Ciphers  
 Bruchac, Joseph ..... Jim Thorpe: Original All-American



Bryson, Bill..... A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail  
Carson, Ben..... Gifted Hands  
Cooper, Margaret..... Exploring the Ice Age  
Cork, John..... The James Bond Encyclopedia  
Crompton, Samuel ... Julius Caesar  
Crossingham, John... Learn to Speak Music  
Crutcher, Chris..... King of the Mild Frontier  
Deem, James..... Faces From the Past: Forgotten People of North America  
DeVorkin, David..... Hubble: Imaging Space and Time  
Diakite, Baba ..... A Gift From Childhood: Memories of an African Boyhood  
Fradin, Dennis..... With a Little Luck: Surprising Stories of Amazing Discoveries  
Freedman, Russell.... Freedom Walkers: the Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott  
Freedman, Russell....Who Was First?: Discovering the Americas  
Fremon, David .....The Holocaust Heroes  
Gay, Peter.....Mozart  
Greenhill, Wendy.....Shakespeare: Man of the Theater  
Hawking, Stephen ....The Universe in a Nutshell  
Hillenbrand, Laura ...Seabiscuit  
Hoose, Phillip.....Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95  
Hopkinson, D. ....Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America  
Houston, Jeanne .....Farewell to Manzanar  
Keeley, Jennifer .....Life in the Hitler Youth  
Kusky, Timothy .....Climate Change: Shifting Glaciers, Deserts, and Climate Belts  
Lalicki, Tom.....Spellbinder: the Life of Harry Houdini  
Lassieur, Allison .....Earthquakes  
Lieberman, Noah .....Glove Affairs: the Romance, History and Tradition of the Baseball Glove  
Macaulay, David .....The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body  
MacKay, Joe .....The Great Shutout Pitchers: 20 Profiles of a Vanishing Breed  
Malone, John.....Unsolved Mysteries of Science  
Mann, Charles.....Before Columbus: the Americas of 1491  
Marquez, Heron .....Roberto Clemente: Baseball's Humanitarian Hero  
Marrin, Albert .....A Volcano Beneath the Snow  
Marx, Jeffrey.....Season of Life  
McCarty, Nick.....Rome  
McKissack, Pat .....Black Diamond: the Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues  
Meltzer, Milton .....Ten Kings and the World's they Ruled  
Morgan, Sally.....Alternative Energy Sources  
Murphy, Jim..... Truce: the Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting  
Myers, Walter D. .... The Greatest: Muhammad Ali  
Nardo, Don ..... Life of a Roman Gladiator  
Owen, David ..... Police Lab  
Patrick, Bethanne.... An Uncommon History Of Common Things  
Pfetzer, Mark ..... Within Reach: My Everest Story  
Pimm, Nancy Roe.... The Daytona 500: The Thrill and Thunder of The Great American Race  
Pohlen, Jerome..... Albert Einstein and Relativity for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities and Thought Experiments  
Randall, Bernard ..... Alexander the Great: Macedonian King and Conqueror

Rappaport, Doreen... Beyond Courage: the Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust  
Richard, Carl J. .... Greeks & Romans Bearing Gifts: How the Ancients Inspired the Founding  
Sandler, Martin ..... The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure  
Sayers, Gale ..... I Am Third: the Inspiration for Brian's Song  
Schuman, Michael Elie Wiesel: Voice from the Holocaust  
Schwartz, Joseph.....Einstein for Beginners  
Stewart, Gail .....The Trojan War  
St. John, Warren.....Outcasts United: the Story of A Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town  
Taylor, Theodore... Air Raid Pearl Harbor!: the Story of December 7, 1941  
Tebow, Tim.....Through My Eyes  
VanHecke, Susan... Raggin', Jazzin', Rockin':A History of Musical Instrument Makers  
Walker, Sally.....Secrets of a Civil War Submarine  
Walker, Sally.....Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland  
Wasdin, Howard .....I Am a SEAL Team 6 Warrior: Memoirs of an American Soldier  
Winston, Robert .....What Goes On In My Head?  
Woodward, John .....How to Be a Genius  
Zullo, Allan .....Surviving Sharks and other Dangerous Creatures