



6th Grade Summer Reading Requirements

-“WHAT BOOKS DO I NEED TO READ THIS SUMMER?”

1. Holes- Louis Sachar
2. Dovey Coe- Frances O’Roark Dowell
3. Option book- Read one other book of their choice that is either autobiographical, a biography, or non-fiction.

-----QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS-----

-“MR. M. WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY READ HOLES OR DOVEY COE?”

Well, you need to read them again. This time you will notice things you never saw before the first time you read them. Plus, you need to have them fresh in your mind.

-“HOW DO I USE MY WRITER’S JOURNAL YOU GAVE ME?”

You need to write in it of course! You need to write at least one entry each week so you will have about 10-12 entries in there by the start of school. I would love to see more than just 10-12!

-“OKAY, SO WHAT SHOULD I WRITE ABOUT AND HOW?”

I want you to write about your books and the world that you see around you this summer. Write about something you discover in your book or about things that you “discover” this summer.

-“DO YOU MEAN WRITE LIKE I AM KEEPING A “LOG” OR A “JOURNAL”?”

Let’s be clear. Do not write about “what I did today.” That would be what we call a “log.” That is not what we are doing. You are “journaling.” In a “journal” you are writing more creatively. Maybe in the book Dovey Coe something happens that reminds you of a similar experience that has occurred to you. That would be a cool thing to write an entry about. Right? Or for example, maybe you are on a trip. There you are minding your own business when you find out that person you were talking with does not know how to read. “What! He can’t read! How can that be?” That might be something for you to write about in your journal- how you feel about it. That actually happened to me one time, but that is a story I will tell you about if you ask me in 6th grade...

-“SHOULD I TITLE EACH PAGE AND DO STUFF LIKE THAT?”

Yep. Date, and title each page. That way you, I, and someone famous can understand when you wrote it and what that entry is maybe about. Otherwise, it will be too confusing for my simple old mind.

-“WHAT IF I CAN’T THINK OF ANYTHING TO WRITE ABOUT?”

Hey, I know that sometimes our brains just fill up with fuzz and don’t work well so I have included some ideas below. If you are having difficulty feel free to use some of those ideas to help you get started in your writing.

-“ONE MORE QUESTION...WHAT IF I LOSE MY JOURNAL OR JUST DON’T DO IT?”

What are you crazy? If I was on a sailboat in the ocean and my journal slide off into the water I would be over the side and after it. I mean that is your hard work! Oh, did I forget to tell you it will be your first grade too when you come back to school. Lose it or don’t do it and you get a big, fat zero! I don’t know about you, but I would put a great effort into it. Don’t be someone who comes in and says, “Mr. M. I couldn’t do it, my fingers hurt, my knee got skinned up, the cat ate it, er...no, the dog ate it, ah....no my little brother burned it up...”

I will look at you and just grin ☺, but still give you a zero. ☹ Write!

Have a great summer and have fun!

-Mr. M.

Some ideas to write about if you hit a snag

Ideas for writing about your books- Feel free to use them if needed, or never.

1. Pick a character and write about that character. Does he/she/it seem “realistic?” Do you identify with them? Are they like anyone you personally know? What do you like or dislike about them?
2. Write about a “scene” in the book- Describe what you find interesting about it...write a poem about something in the scene, an object, person, place, feeling.
3. Write poems about things in the book or as a result of reading the book.
4. You could draw a picture of a person in the book, or a place, or something that strikes you as interesting. Draw it in your journal and then write about what it is or why you chose to draw that picture. How does it tie into your book?

Ideas for your “other” writing in your summer journals- Use them if you want to.

Think of something you have done this summer that you really enjoyed and write about why you liked it so much...”what really mattered to me.”

Write about a “new” experience that you had this summer. Maybe you learned how to slalom or barefoot ski! Maybe you tasted red peppers for the first time. Write about that “first” time experience. What was it like? Describe it in detail. How did you feel about it?

Do you think you’ve changed much since you were little; say a third grader? Do you look different? Act differently?

Do you have a pet? Spend 15 minutes quietly observing it. Don’t let it watch you watching it...be sneaky. What did you learn about it? Now if it sleeps for 15 minutes please pick a time when it is up and about to write about!

Did you have any strange or unusual “coincidences” happen to you this summer? I remember one summer when I saw a man wearing the Boy Scout shirt of a childhood friend of mine...The strange thing was I was in a foreign country and had been out of Boy Scouts for 20 years! The man could not speak a word of English and I didn’t speak any Spanish! I wanted to know things like how he got that shirt. Write about unusual experiences that you have this summer.

Pick a movie you have seen this summer. What would you do to make it better? What scenes would you change? Don’t want to change any scenes? Then what are specific things that made it your favorite movie?

What month of the summer is your favorite month? Why? Tell me more than, “I get to go swimming at the beach...” I need more. What is so great about that month?

Summer TV- If you could take one character from a television show out to eat with you and your buddies who would you take? Discuss the reasons for your choice and what you would want to talk about.

Can you think of someone who isn’t famous who has inspired you? Explain how this person has inspired you.

Have you ever become friends with someone who didn’t always treat you nicely? How did that happen, and how did you react?

If someone this summer offered you a million dollars to swim at Sea World in a tank with a great white shark for 10 minutes would you do it? Why or why not?

Write about something that was “funny” to you. It could be something you saw, heard, experienced etc...Why was that funny to you? Try to recreate that funny feeling about that experience as you write about it.

Take any place you are going to and get ready to do the following:

Take a card with you and write down the first “smell” you come across...then write down a note about an interesting person you “saw”, then write down a note or two about a “sound” you hear. When you get home put it all together and write about your “experience.”