

Harding Township School - Summer Assignment

6th Grade English/Language Arts

DUE: September 6, 2023

Assignment Rationale/Objective:

This summer reading initiative will support the students' efforts in the classroom. In September, the sixth grade language arts program begins with a unit on conflict allowing students to:

- identify the four types of conflict in literature: man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, and man vs. self.
- use this novel to create connections to Hatchet in September as well as any personal connections.
- analyze how a writer develops a unique style in terms of characterization, plot development, and theme.
- annotate reading for characterization, setting and theme as a pre-writing activity for a literary essay in September.

Below, find several choices of engaging titles. These books will enrich your studies this year in language arts as well as social studies, while making your experiences with this year's class novels more rewarding and memorable.

Required materials:

- 1) Choose ONE of the below-listed novels, all related to the theme of conflict.** Books may be available for free through the Kemmerer Public Library, or for purchase through local bookstores or online vendors such as amazon.com.

Note: If purchasing a book is financially difficult for any family at this time, please reach out to Mrs. Howard in the HTS Middle School Office for private assistance no later than June 30.

1. Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as the island of San Nicholas. Dolphins flash in the blue waters around it, sea otter play in the vast kelp beds, and sea elephants loll on the stony beaches.

Here, in the early 1800s, according to history, an Indian girl spent eighteen years alone, and this beautifully written novel is her story. It is a romantic adventure filled with drama and heartache, for not only was mere subsistence on so desolate a spot a near miracle, but Karana had to contend with the ferocious pack of wild dogs that had killed her younger brother, constantly guard against the Aleutian sea otter hunters, and maintain a precarious food supply.

More than this, it is an adventure of the spirit that will haunt the reader long after the book has been put down. Karana's quiet courage, her Indian self-reliance and acceptance of fate, transform what to many would have been a devastating ordeal into an uplifting experience. From loneliness and terror come strength and serenity in this Newbery Medal-winning classic.

2. The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curaçao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand—until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed.

When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy. Phillip remembers his mother's warning about black people: "They are different, and they live differently."

But by the time the castaways arrive on a small island, Phillip's head injury has made him blind and dependent on Timothy.

3. My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Sam Gribble is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever.

2) Graphic organizers for notes: Click link and make a copy in order to work directly in the document.

Please do NOT procrastinate until mid-August to start this assignment!

Overview instructions:

IN THIS **RECOMMENDED ORDER**:

A. Read your selected novel from the above list.

B. As you read, TYPE notes in the ON-LINE graphic organizers. **Also on the Google Classroom.**

- **Important:** Use your SCHOOL GOOGLE ACCOUNT as you work so you can access these notes in September at school.
- You will need a **print-out** in order to receive credit for your notes
- You will have **an in-class writing assessment in September** and can use your online notes in class.

Estimated time for completion/Suggested pacing: May vary by student. Below are estimates:

- Reading: Depends on book selected and individual reading pace.
- Organizers: Rough estimate: 45 minutes per organizer x 3 organizers = 135 minutes

Percentage of first marking period grade: This is your first test grade of the marking period.

Process for requesting help over the summer: Email: jbaldassari@hardingtwp.org



Plagiarism (direct word for word copying, paraphrasing/word substitution, or copying of notes) violates school policy and will result in a zero.