

Summer Reading 2009 - Sixth Grade

Each student is to:

1. Read one title from the selection above
2. Complete the attached summer reading packet. It is worth a test grade.
3. Additional Bonus: worth one test grade. Choose a second title from the selection. Complete a Compare and Contrast between the two novels you have read.

Please note: Summer Reading packets are due the first day of school.

Students will lose 10 points for each day overdue.

The Mystery Selections:

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Story Summary: When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere, she wants to run to somewhere - a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably, elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. She invites her brother Jamie along since he has a better cash flow. Claudia and Jamie find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for \$225. The statue is possibly an early work of the Renaissance master, Michelangelo, and would be worth millions. Is it? Or isn't it? Claudia is determined to find out. Her quest leads to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue, and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Story Summary: When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra Andalee & Calder Pillay together, strange things start to happen. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal. As Petra & Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth they must use their powers of intuition, their skills at problem solving, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has left the FBI baffled?

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Story Summary: The story brings 16 heirs together for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. The will turns out to involve a game to find out who murdered Westing. The story unfolds with plenty of twists and turns and has a fun cast of characters for students to follow and analyze.

The Mystery Selections Packet

Answers may be typed. Please indicate the title and author of the novel you have selected.

1. Compile a list of ten vocabulary words. Define each word. Be sure to include the part of speech for each word.
2. In each of the novel selections, teamwork is important. In complete sentences, explain the importance of teamwork. Describe a time when you were a member of a team. Did your team have successful teamwork or was it lacking? Explain.
3. Complete a character sketch of two of the main characters. An author uses several methods to bring a character to life for the reader. These methods include the character's thoughts, feelings, actions, and spoken words, as well as, how other characters see and feel about them. Indicate the character's name and in bullet points, list the characteristics.
4. Point of View - Novels are written from different points of view. These views include first person where the main character is telling the story, third person where an "outside observer" is telling the story, and omnipresent where the author is telling the story as an observer, but giving insight to each of the main characters. From which point of view is the novel written? What leads you to choose this point of view? Give examples from the story.
5. In complete sentences tell how the author keeps the reader's interest as the story develops.
6. Make a list of clues indicated in the story. Does the story's outcome match your prediction of the mystery's solution? Explain.
7. What do the two main characters you have sketched get from their adventure?
8. Choose one of the two characters you have sketched and summarize the adventure from your point of view (first person).