

SUMMER READING 2009 - SEVENTH GRADE

Tales of Adventure & Courage Selections:

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.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Story Summary: Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother has given him as a present - and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart ever since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair - it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

The River by Gary Paulsen

Story Summary: Two years ago, Brian Robeson was stranded alone in the wilderness for fifty-four days with nothing but a small hatchet. He survived. Now the government wants him to do it again - to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept him alive. This time he won't be alone: Derek Holtzer, a government psychologist, will accompany him. But during a freak storm, Derek is hit by lightning and falls into a coma. Their radio transmitter is dead. Brian's only hope is to build a raft and try to transport Derek a hundred miles down the river to a trading post - if the map he has is accurate.

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen

Story Summary: Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is stranded alone in the Canadian wilderness. Brian has been able to survive thus far during the summer months, but fall is approaching and with the change in seasons come different survival challenges. Brian's winter survival is chronicled in great detail as he slowly navigates through the woods during a blizzard. Through it all, Brian relies on his instincts and his intelligence to confront the deadliest enemy he has yet faced: a "hard-spined north woods winter." He learns that the surest way to survive is to never rest and never grow complacent. Nature is always working.

The Tales of Adventure and Courage 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 complete sentences, describe in detail the setting of the story.
3. Pretend that you find yourself alone in a remote area such as an island, a forest, or a jungle. You will be there for approximately one week. There will be no outside help, and you will not be allowed to make contact with anyone during your stay. Therefore, communication devices such as cell phones and radios will be of no use to you. You alone will be responsible for finding food and shelter. You will need to prepare a "survival pack." All the items you choose for the "survival pack" must be able to fit inside a backpack that you will be able to lift and carry. Examples would include a knife for protection and food preparation and a jug of fresh water for drinking. In addition to these two items, make a list of 25 items you would select and the reason for your selections.
4. Complete a character sketch for the main characters. Be sure to include those characteristics the main character displays when facing survival and overcoming fear. 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.
5. Make a list challenges faced by the main character and the solutions they created to overcome these challenges. Choose an alternate solution for two of the challenges you listed. Explain why you would handle the challenge in this way.
6. In complete sentences, write a journal entry describing a typical day in the life of the main character.
7. Throughout the story the main character is faced by survival problem after survival problem. Think back to the story and choose any two survival problems that you feel were the most exciting or interesting. In complete sentence, retell the survival problem and explain what made it special for you.
8. Think back to the story and choose two events that you think are the most important to the main character in overcoming their fear. In complete sentences, retell the events and explain why they were important for you.