



Dear Students and Parents,

Happy summer! I am happy to announce our summer reading program. While we all need time to rest and rejuvenate over the summer, it is important to keep our minds engaged and to realize the enjoyment of great literature. Each grade level will be required two books to read. For the first book, you will need to choose a grade-appropriate book from the online list of book choices (see *summer reading lists* under the *parents' tab* on www.bcalions.com). With this novel of choice, you will need to write a summary/review (see attached instructions). The second novel is required, and a reading comprehension test on this novel will be one of our first objectives when we return in August. It would be best to read the choice book first, so the required book will be fresher in your minds at the beginning of school.

Happy reading!

Mrs. Johnson

Required novels:

Sixth grade: Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Seventh grade: The Giver by Lois Lowry

Eighth grade: The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boon

Choice novel requirements: Write a five-paragraph essay in reaction to the novel you have chosen. The paragraphs are as follows:

Paragraph One: Introduction

Begin with a catchy opening statement, state your thesis clearly, and tell the reader the three main points you will be discussing in the body paragraphs.

Paragraph Two: Summary

Write a broad summary of the events of your novel. Avoid too much detail, as this should just be an overview of the events. Do not omit the conclusion to create suspense, but rather overview the entire plot.

Paragraph Three: Main characters

Describe the main characters (no more than three) and describe their role in the book, their qualities, and what you may have learned from their experiences.

Paragraph Four: Recommendation

Write a paragraph describing your reaction to the novel, to whom you would recommend this novel and why, and what you have learned from reading this novel.

Paragraph Five: Conclusion

Restate your thesis, remind reader of the three main points you discussed, and end with a strong conclusion sentence.

Tips to help you with your assignment on the required novel:

1. Keep a main character log listing names, their roles in the book, and any outstanding qualities.
2. Keep a plot flow chart of the main events of the story.
3. Identify the main conflicts of the story and how they are possibly resolved.
4. Recognize the themes of the novel (the author's message/statements about life that are revealed through the main characters and the events of the novel).

The "tips" are a suggestion and will not be collected with the written assignment.