

Summer Reading Assignment (for students entering 6th grade)

Choose **ONE** of the following novels to read and respond to:

1. Dark Life by Kat Falls: *Dive deep into the vivid underwater world of Dark Life! The oceans rose, swallowing the lowlands. Earthquakes shattered the continents, toppling entire regions into the rising water. Now, humans live packed into stack cities. The only ones with any space of their own are those who live on the ocean floor: the Dark Life. Ty has spent his whole life living deep undersea. When outlaws attack his homestead, he finds himself in a fight to save the only home he has ever known. Joined by Gemma, a girl from Topside, Ty ventures into the frontier's rough underworld and discovers some dark secrets to Dark Life. Secrets that threaten to destroy everything.*
2. Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry: *Lois Lowry's magnificent novel of the distant future, The Giver, is set in a highly technical and emotionally repressed society. This eagerly awaited companion volume, by contrast, takes place in a village with only the most rudimentary technology, where anger, greed, envy, and casual cruelty make ordinary people's lives short and brutish. This society, like the one portrayed in The Giver, is controlled by merciless authorities with their own complex agendas and secrets. And at the center of both stories there is a young person who is given the responsibility of preserving the memory of the culture--and who finds the vision to transform it.*
3. Dragon Slippers by Jessica Day George: *Creel, the heroine of Dragon Slippers is hardly a damsel-in-distress. After her aunt totes her out to the local dragon in desperation (with the hope that the local prince will rescue her from certain death and marry her), Creel refuses the haughty prince and finds friendship with the dragons, who set her on a journey to the center of the kingdom with a pretty pair of what only seem to be ordinary slippers. Along the way we discover Creel's enormous talent at embroidery, and you can't help but linger over the rich descriptions of her lovely tapestry-like gowns, which quickly make her the most sought-after dressmaker in the kingdom. But soon enough those mysterious slippers begin to wreak havoc, and it's up to Creel to save the kingdom from disaster and defend the dragons from certain doom.*

You will be creating a **Newspaper Book Response**. Use the following requirements to design and lay out your "newspaper." Place the articles and features where you think they fit best, and check off each requirement as it is completed. This must be **handwritten** – all writing is completed by hand and all drawings are done by hand. You will use white poster paper to create your newspaper. Fold the poster in half to create a booklet, just like a real newspaper. You may mount sections on colored construction paper before applying to the poster pages. Work carefully – accuracy, colorfulness, and neatness count! Your sections will display well if you mount the sections on contrasting colors as a background; however, this is not required. This will count as a **major assessment (test) grade**, so be sure to put forth your best effort on this!

Due Date: August 14th, 2018 (the second day of school)

Due Date for Students Enrolled On/After August 1st: August 28th, 2018

Requirements: You must have each of the following sections in your newspaper:

Title/Name of Newspaper

- Create a title for your newspaper. It should be related to the book, but NOT the book title. This should be at the top of your newspaper.
- Underneath the title of the newspaper in a smaller font, write the title of the book that the newspaper is based on, the reporters' name (this is you), and the date (the first day of school).
- Create a line that separates this section from the rest of the newspaper.

Articles – Create a Catchy Headline for Each Article

- Summary – Write a summary of the main and/or important events that the main character was involved in (this is **not** written as a list, but written in paragraph format). Answer who/what/where/when/why/how in your summary of what major events happens in the novel and why they are important. This should be 2 paragraphs. Create a catchy headline for this article.
- Character Profile – Write a brief article about the main character, including who the character is, what he/she did, and interesting facts about the character. Include 2 character traits to describe the personality of the character and include evidence from the text to support these character traits. Draw a picture of the main character **based on text descriptions** and include this with the article. Be sure to label the picture with a caption.

Features – Choose TWO Features to Include and Include a Catchy Headline for EACH Feature Included

- Advice Column – Pretend the main character wrote a letter to the advice columnist seeking advice about a problem he/she faced in the book. Create a name for the “advice columnist writer” to use in the letter from your main character. Then write a response from the columnist that reflects how the problem was solved. Make it look like an advice column.
- Book Review – Write a review for the book you read. Explain your likes/dislikes and support with examples from the book. To whom would you recommend this book? Why?
- Editorial – Choose an issue/problem in your book and take a position on it. Write a letter to the editor describing how you feel about the issue. Think carefully and honestly about what you want to say.
- Comics – Design a 4 panel comic strip illustrating something funny that happened in your book. Create a title for the comic. Include color and caption bubbles. You **may** use a comic-strip creator from the internet to help you create this comic.

Fillers – ALL of the Space in your Newspaper Should be Filled. Choose AT LEAST THREE of these options to include in your newspaper to help take up the remaining room. You can include more than three; however, three of these options is the minimum. Be creative when filling up the white space. Make sure what you choose relates to your novel.

- Crossword Puzzle/Word Search – Using names, places, etc. from the book, create a puzzle. Include a word bank or answer key in another section.
- Advertisement – Using places from the book, create an advertisement for visiting that particular place. Describe what it looks like and why someone would want to visit this particular place. Insert a hand drawn picture of the place.
- Sports – Create a sports section if there were any sporting events that could have been or were a part of the novel.
- Travel News – Based on a location that was mentioned or was the setting.
- Classified Ads – Create a “help wanted” ad or an ad for an object that your character wants to find or would be trying to sell.
- Lost and Found – Based on something that was lost as part of the story.
- Weather – Describe the weather for a period of time that is important in the novel.

Conventions and Overall Appearance

- All writing is completed by hand and by the student.
- Writing has been checked and edited for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization errors.
- Newspaper is neat, colorful, and shows attention to detail.
- Writing shows thorough understanding and knowledge of the novel chosen.

Students are responsible for printing these instructions for the summer reading assignment. Use this checklist to be sure that you have followed all directions for your newspaper and make corrections as needed before turning in the assignment (with a blank copy of these instructions).

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____