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Rising Grade 7: Summer Reading Instructions

For your summer reading, you will need to read **TWO BOOKS TOTAL**. Read **one** of the following books for a **poster activity**:

- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, OR
- *Gossamer* by Lois Lowry.

For this first activity, obtain a poster paper larger than 8-1/2 x 11" but smaller than 2'x3'.

On this poster, draw or illustrate the main character of the book you read. Your illustration should represent what that character looks like based upon your reading of the book.

Title your poster with the title of the book, correctly capitalized and underlined, and its author.

Then find a memorable quote from the book, and add this to the bottom or side of your illustration. Explain what this quote means **and** why you picked it. Make sure you put quotation marks around your quote, but **not** around your explanation!

Finally, explain the importance of this character to the story. Why is this the main character? What is this character like, and does he or she change? If so, how?

Both parts of your Summer Reading are due the first day of school!

How You Will Be Graded for Part One:

1. Main character illustration and explanation are accurate, showing thought and effort: **20 points**
2. Title and author of the book are at the top of the poster, properly capitalized and punctuated: **10 points**
3. Memorable quote and its explanation reflect an understanding of the text: **15 points**
4. Poster is neat and looks like your best and final work: **5 points**

Overall: 50 points

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For the second part of your Summer Reading, you will need to obtain, read, and do a double-entry journal for **one** of the following books:

- * *Rules* by Cynthia Lord,
- * *Peak* by Roland Smith,
- * *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis, OR
- * *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm.

You will need a composition book for this activity. You may use last year's summer-reading notebook, if there are enough pages left for this one! As you read your second book, you will write a double-entry response journal. At the end of these directions are examples of sentence starters that you may tape or glue on the inside cover of your summer-reading response notebook, to help you write your double-entry journal responses.

It is due the first day of school.

Directions for the Double-Entry Journal:

1. On each page of your journal, create two columns. Label the first, "What the Text Says" and the second, "My Response."
2. You may write more than one response on each page, provided they are neat and organized. It is best to use a box for each of your responses, like the example shown below.
3. You will write at least **20** entries, from selections evenly spaced throughout the book, appearing in order.
4. Each entry should be neat, accurate, and in complete sentences.
5. On the **left** side of your double-entry journal, copy exactly a quote from the book. *You should pick a quote that is key to the passage, that helps develop the theme(s) of the book, or one that is interesting to you or that presents a problem or character trait.* It could be interesting language, or a critical fact, a main idea, a problem, or a character sketch.
6. Remember to add quotation marks around your quote, and copy your quote exactly as written. This means you will need to start a new line and indent for new paragraphs, and include punctuation and spelling exactly as written in the original.
7. At the end of your quote, remember to add parenthesis and include the page number or numbers where you found that quote inside those parenthesis. This is called *citation*, which we did for your research paper this year.
8. Your quote should be at least two sentences.
9. On the **right** side of your double-entry journal, reflect and respond to your chosen quote. You may write about what you think it means; what effect it has on the plot,

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characters, or setting; or any questions it prompts you to ask. You may respond with your feelings, connections, explanations, theories, predictions, inferences, analyses, or conclusions. Use the sentence starters below to help you respond: You may use any of them, as often as you like.

10. Your response should be at least two complete sentences. Remember I am looking more for *substance, thought, and reflection* than length or correct grammar or spelling. Follow the 3:1 rule—each quote should have 3x the amount of writing in your thought, but don't sacrifice the quality of your response just to make it longer! You may respond with feelings, questions, connections, explanations, theories, inferences, predictions, conclusions, or other analyses. This means you must read and select *meaningful* quotes!

Sentence Starters for the Right Side of Your Double-Entry Journal:

"I think the author is saying that . . ."

"I had a similar conflict/situation when . . ."

"The author created a _____ mood in these sentences by . . ."

"This passage makes me think of . . ."

"These sentences remind me of a time when . . ."

"This relates to another book/story I've read where (tell what you read earlier here), because . . ."

"I am confused about _____ because . . ."

"I thought _____ about (something or someone in the book). Now my thinking has changed, because . . ."

"I wonder why . . ."

"I infer . . ."

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Example of a Double-Response Journal from Pam Muñoz Ryan's *Esperanza Rising*:

What the Text Says	My Response
<p>"Shhh,' he said. 'You can only feel the earth's heartbeat when you are still and quiet.'</p> <p>"She swallowed her laughter and after a moment said, 'I can't hear it, Papi.'</p> <p>"<i>Aguántate tantito y la fruta caerá en tu mano,</i>' he said. 'Wait a little while and the fruit will fall into your hand. You must be patient, Esperanza.'" (2).</p>	<p>I wonder if Esperanza will be patient enough to do as her father says, and I wonder if her father is just pulling her leg, or if the earth really has a heartbeat. I think that is so cool—to think our Earth has its own heartbeat, its own life. It makes sense, especially to farmers and people who live off the fruit of the land, to be closer to the Earth and to think of it like a living being.</p> <p>I also like how Papi switches languages, but still explains what he means. I was worried when I read the Spanish first, because I wasn't sure I'd understand it, but now I feel better about that. I also like how she calls her father "Papi"—it really sounds like a little six-year-old girl! I wonder what else we will learn from her Papi. I like how the author said she had to "swallow her laughter," because I can relate to doing that, too!</p>

How You Will Be Graded:

- Each entry shall be worth 4 points:
 - 2 points possible for each response that shows critical thinking, thoughtfulness and an understanding of the text.
 - 2 possible points for each selection you quoted, for choosing key passages that reflect an understanding of the story and for copying it exactly. (Remember that accurately quoting means to include paragraph spaces and/or indentations.)

Total possible: 80 pts.

- 20 additional points can be earned for having a neat, thorough journal that followed these directions.

Overall total: 100 points.**Due date: First day of school.**