



6th Grade Guide to Summer Reading 2008-2009

Both summer and core reading books have been established in various subjects for each grade level. The purpose of the summer reading program is to promote the love of reading and to prepare students for the curriculum they will be studying in the upcoming school year. Core books are used to supplement and enrich the curriculum as it is studied during the school year. Topics and genres are enhanced as students read, discuss, and analyze these selections in the classroom.

English: *The View from Saturday* by E. L. Konisburg tells the story of Mrs. Eva Marie Olinski's champion Academic Bowl team. However, the story is not about how the Souls win state competition by triumphing over older students, but how and why she chooses these four sixth grade students to represent her homeroom. This novel is unique in the way Mrs. Konisburg tells it from five different points of view. The story of the competition itself is told through Mrs. Olinski's perspective. Then, as each student takes a turn in answering a question during the competition, the story shifts to that student's perspective, and we learn a little bit about why Mrs. Olinski chose them for the team. We will use this story to talk about theme and characterization in literature class.

AS YOU READ THIS STORY

Because this story shifts in both point of view and time, it might be helpful for you to keep a timeline or other graphic organizer. You may go to Ms. Ames' website to find some examples. Also, please answer the following questions in complete sentences on notebook paper and be ready to turn them in to your literature teacher when school begins.

1. How does Noah become an accidental best man at the wedding? He takes someone's place—that someone is whose father?
2. Nadia's story revolves around the rescue of baby sea turtles. How is Nadia's personal life similar to what happens to stranded sea turtles?
3. Ethan asks the Souls to name the one day they would like to live over again. Which day does he choose? Why do you think he chooses this?
4. How does Julian demonstrate resourcefulness and courage? Give one example of each characteristic from the story.
5. Mrs. Olinski does not tolerate malice. What is malice? Describe one incident from the story that demonstrates this.
6. One of the main **themes** of this story is friendship. What is friendship to you? How is friendship portrayed in this book?

WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS

Be ready to turn in your paper when requested. Assignments based on the story will be given during the first week of school.

Social Studies: *The Capture*, by Kathryn Lasky begins with Soren, who has a happy home with his parents and siblings. He dreams of flying and of the various ceremonies that he will experience as he grows. Then, suddenly, all of these things that are so dear to him are snatched away; or rather he is snatched away from them. The little barn owl finds himself in a nightmarish place, a place full of baby owls like himself who have numbers instead of names. Luckily Soren soon finds himself a friend, a small elf owl called Gylfie. Together these two youngsters develop the skills it takes to survive their captivity and yet keep their individuality and their will to be free.

In Social Studies, sixth graders will learn about ancient cultures and people. This story will help us prepare to be open to learning about these cultures; some very different from our own. This story reminds us of our need for personal choice and the need for fellowship based on trust and love. It teaches us to be kind and compassionate to all around us.

WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS

A project based on the story will be given during the first weeks of school. It might be helpful to take notes on the topics listed below. These notes will not be collected, but would be beneficial to have when the book is discussed in class

AS YOU READ THIS STORY

- Be prepared to give examples from the story of how the following character traits are shown: compassion, self-discipline, responsibility, friendship, honesty, and work.
- Be able to describe the main characters of the story.
- The owlets are told that questions are not allowed. "We discourage questions here as we feel they often distract from the truth....Never question but obey." (*The Capture*, page 31)

Learning and the quest for knowledge are forbidden at St. Aggies. In fact the response to asking a question is severe punishment. Why are questions important? How is this especially important about gaining information about the past?

Religion: *Petey* by Ben Mikaelson, is the touching story of a cerebral palsy patient who lives in an institution, cannot walk, talk or take care of himself. More tragically, the intelligent child is misdiagnosed as mentally impaired, with no capacity for thought.

Calvin is a clubfooted boy whose depression is mistaken for mental deficiency. The two become fast friends, and with Calvin's help, Petey learns to communicate in his own unique way. The boys grow to childhood together. When the two boys are sent to different facilities, Petey's heart is broken. Years later, he finds someone to take Calvin's place; a lonely teenage boy named Trevor. Trevor's

friendship gives Petey another chance at life, but what Petey gives to Trevor is even more remarkable. Ben Mikaelson's novel is the story of Petey's lifelong struggle to overcome barriers that seem insurmountable, and of the people whose lives he touches.

AS YOU READ THIS STORY

Please answer the following questions. Each question should be typed and be 6-7 sentences in length. It may be helpful to read the questions first and then take notes as you read your story. When you answer your questions, cite examples from the book.

1. What do you think it would feel like to have thoughts, feelings, and ideas inside you and not be able to communicate them with anyone? Give an example of Petey having these feelings.
2. What are some of the similarities between Petey and Trevor? How have they both learned to cope with their situations?
3. Petey's nurse, Sissy, says, "We're all dying the minute we are born, that's why it is so important to live." What does this quote mean to you?
4. How did Petey's and Trevor's friendship change them both? Give both positive and negative examples.

WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS

Be ready to turn your papers in during the first week of school. All papers **must** be typed.