



7th 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.

Literature: Students entering the 7th grade will read Kathryn Lasky's *The Night Journey*, which is a contemporary coming-of-age story about a young girl struggling with identity issues; her family responsibilities; and balancing schoolwork, participating in extracurricular activities, and hanging out with her best friend. Students are reading this novel in preparation for Lasky's visit to our school in the fall. Furthermore, the book corresponds with all of the Characteristics of Marianist Education (CMEs) and School-wide Learning Expectations (SLEs) and this year's overarching theme of social justice and resistance.

AS YOU READ THIS STORY

Fill out the Literature Summer Reading chart located below. If you need further explanation of the CMEs, please refer to this page on the school's website: <http://www.chaminade.org/profile/Graphics/LE.pdf>.

Keep the following things in mind:

- a. Activity must be done neatly and completely.
- b. If it is a writing activity, it must be typed or neatly hand-written.
 - i. Times New Roman
 - ii. 12 point font
- c. Assignment will be graded according to the following guidelines:
 - i. Student writes at a seventh-grade level using seventh-grade vocabulary words.
 - ii. Student uses correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
 - iii. Student avoids typos.
 - iv. Student cites the page number where the excerpt/quote is located.
 - v. Student writes a paragraph explaining how each quote/excerpt is related to each CME. Each paragraph will have a topic sentence as well as at least three supporting sentences and one concluding sentence.
 - vi. Each paragraph will clearly explain how the quote/excerpt is related to the CME so that the student's understanding as well as effort is made clear to the teacher.

Literature Summer Reading Chart

Name _____

Summer 2008

Literature 7/Block _____

Kathryn Lasky's *The Night Journey*

Directions: For each CME, please find a quote or excerpt that BEST exemplifies that CME. Please note the chapter and page number where you found that excerpt. Then, in a short but clear paragraph, explain how that excerpt you chose is related to the CME.

CME #1: Formation in Faith

Excerpt from the book:

“

.” (Ch. ____, p. ____)

One paragraph explanation

CME #2: Integral Quality Education

Excerpt from the book:

“

.” (Ch. _____, p. _____)

One paragraph explanation

CME #3: Educate in the family spirit

Excerpt from the book:

“

.” (Ch. _____, p. _____)

One paragraph explanation

CME #4: Service, Justice, and Peace

Excerpt from the book:

“

.” (Ch. ____, p. ____)

One paragraph explanation

CME #5: Adaptation and change

Excerpt from the book:

“

.” (Ch. _____, p. _____)

One paragraph explanation

Social Studies: *The Shadow Spinner* by Susan Fletcher takes place during the height of Muslim expansion in the tenth century. It is a tale of a handicapped girl who develops a special friendship with the Sultan's wife. The book will help you understand and appreciate the Muslim religion and culture and will be of particular importance to our curriculum during the latter part of the first quarter.

AS YOU READ THE STORY

Take detailed notes that will enable you to answer the following questions when the book is discussed in class:

- Who are the three main characters in the book? What role does each character play in the story?
- Name and explain five critical events in the story. Be sure to know why each event was important to the story.
- What is the moral of the story?
- How did each of the main characters change over the course of the book?

WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS

- Prepare the outline questions to assist you in completing the assignment that will be assigned when studying Islam (Chapter 2).

Religion: *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson is the story of a young boy, Cole Matthew, who must learn to accept responsibility for his actions. After he viciously attacks a classmate, he is sentenced, not to jail, but to submitting to Circle Justice, which is based on Native American tradition. After many struggles, he eventually finds redemption and a chance to repay his debt to the boy he attacked.

AS YOU READ THIS STORY

Take notes that will enable you to discuss the following questions in class. Your answers to the two discussion questions below should be typed and turned in to class during the first week of school.

1. Compare the attack of the Spirit Bear on Cole to Cole's attack on Peter.
2. Cole is caught in a cycle of violence. Where did it begin? Where does it end and with whom? How does it end?
3. Complete the following "I AM" Poem Assignment:
 - a. As you read the story, think about the characteristics that make up the main characters. Take notes as needed.
 - b. Compose two "I Am" poems. The first poem will be done using a character or thematic element from the book (such as Cole Matthews, Peter Driscall, Spirit Bear, Totem Pole, Mr. or Mrs. Matthews). The second poem will be done using **yourself**. Be sure to follow the format exactly, only filling in the items in parentheses. Both poems must be typed and each on separate piece of paper. **Put your heading on the back of the papers.** To ensure FULL CREDIT, decorate your work using borders, pictures, or colored background paper. The "I am" Poem format can be found

for all 7th grade religion classes on Mrs. Damien's webpage
(<http://216.101.58.17/ms/adamien/>).

WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS

- Be prepared to discuss the book in class.
- Bring in your typed discussion questions.
- Turn in your typed "I AM" Poems during the first week of school.
Sample "I AM" Poems will be available in class during the first week of school. Due dates can be found on your teachers' homework calendar.