



**Middle School
Summer Reading List 2009
For Students Going Into
Grades 6 - 8**

Going into Grade 6: Required Reading

- *The Missing Manatee* by Cynthia DeFelice
- *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of a Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West* by Sid Fleischman

Optional: Extra Credit

- *Shakespeare's Secret* by Elsie Broach
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Going into Grade 7: Required Reading

- *Shakespeare's Secret* by Elsie Broach
- *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Optional: Extra Credit

- *Peak* by Roland Smith
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Going into Grade 8: Required Reading

- *Eggs* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Peak* by Roland Smith

Optional: Extra Credit

- *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

Your Name: _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Use the space provided and the diagram on the last page to answer the questions in the boxes below. Use complete sentences and be sure to write neatly and legibly. You must turn this assignment in to your Language Arts Teacher on the first day of class. Do your best!

Main Character

- Almost every book revolves around one or more **main characters**. The main character changes from the beginning of the story to the end.

Who is the main character or your novel? (If there is more than one main character, choose one!)

Characteristics and Traits

- A **characteristic** or **trait** is a feature that helps identify a character. In a story, the characteristics of the main character are what set him or her apart from the other character in the story.
- Some characteristics are **external**, such as a character's physical appearance.
 - ⇒ External traits can be anything from a character's height and hair color to abilities and skills
 - ⇒ Some external traits are more important than others! Chose one that is important to the story!

What is one important **external** trait of the main character?

Why is this trait important?

Write down a sentence or passage from the novel where this trait is described.

Characteristics and Traits

- Some characteristics are **internal**, such as a character's personality.
 - ⇒ Internal traits are a character's emotions, beliefs, attitudes, or fears; internal traits are what make a character's personality unique.
 - ⇒ Some internal traits are more important than others! Chose one that is important to the story!

What is one important **internal** trait of the main character?

Why is this trait important?

Write down a sentence or passage from the novel where this trait is described.

Goal

- In most stories, the main character has a **goal** — something he or she wants or wants to accomplish.
 - ⇒ A character can have more than one goal, and a character's goals can change throughout the story.
 - ⇒ Most main characters have one main (most important) goal.
 - ⇒ A goal isn't necessarily something external or physical!

What is the main character's goal?

Why is this goal important to the character?

What is stopping the main character from reaching this goal?

Conflict

- Most main characters have a **main** (most important) **conflict**: an enemy, obstacle, or problem that he or she has to overcome. Many stories have more than one conflict.
 - ⇒ The main conflict of the story is usually what stops the main character from reaching his or her goal.
 - ⇒ Just like the goal, the main conflict isn't necessarily something external or physical!

What is the conflict of the novel?

How does this conflict stop the main character from reaching his or her goal?

Resolution

- In most stories, the main character's conflicts and experiences cause him or her to change or to learn a valuable lesson. The part of the story where the main character learns this lesson or realizes that he or she has changes is called the resolution.
 - ⇒ The resolution is the final outcome of the story.
 - ⇒ It's where all of the loose ends are tied up!

Describe how the main character changes from the beginning of the story to the end.

Did the main character learn any important lessons? If so, what?

Did you like the resolution of this story? Why or why not?

Directions: Complete the following graphic organizer by filling out the boxes in the main character's internal and external traits.

