

SUMMER READING 2017 - Incoming GRADE 6

"Is truth stranger than fiction?"

This summer, you will read an autobiography written by prominent children's author Ralph Fletcher. Then you will read a novel written by the same author. As you read the novel, try to look for elements that may have been influenced by the author's life experience.

You can find these books at Barnes & Noble or at your local library.

Author: Ralph Fletcher

Autobiography *Marshfield Dreams*

Novel: *Flying Solo*

Lexile: 590

When the substitute for Mr. "Fab" Fabiano never shows up and his sixth-grade students are on their own, they set out to prove that they can run the class by themselves. With a little ingenuity and some careful planning, they might just succeed. But when a fight breaks out between Bastian Fauvell and Rachel White over a classmate, Tommy Feathers, who died six months earlier, everything begins to fall apart. Can Rachel deal with the anxieties that plunged her into silence the day Tommy died? Inventive and uniquely constructed, "Flying Solo" follows Mr. Fab's students hour by hour as they tackle the challenges of an unusual school day.

Summer Writing Assignment for *Marshfield Dreams* and *Flying Solo*.

Sixth Grade Summer Reading Response Questions

Answer the following questions *while* you are reading *Marshfield Dreams* and *Flying Solo*. You may handwrite your thoughts on writing paper, or you may type your responses. Staple the pages when you are finished. This "journal" of reflective responses will be collected in September. Please do not answer ANY of the prompts before reading at least three to four chapters. Some responses may only be appropriate when you reach the end of the book.

The prompts below will help you to reflect on your thoughts *while reading*. There are no wrong answers. Take a risk and say what you are thinking.

Write a response to **ten** of the prompts below for each novel. You may use one or two response questions twice only, or choose ten separate ones.

Your responses must be written in complete sentences with details from the story to support your answer.

1. Most important or interesting character and **why**.
2. What is the setting? Why is the setting important to the story?
3. What do you know about the plot so far?
4. What questions would you ask the author if you could? List at least 3 questions.
5. What new or interesting words have you found? What do they mean?
6. Discuss what makes this a fiction or a non---fiction book.
7. Discuss why the title is a good choice or not.
8. What type of person would enjoy this book and why?
9. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?
10. Finish this sentence: This book reminds me of..... (explain why).
11. Make a prediction about what will happen next and why.
12. Discuss a recommendation you have for the author.

13. Retell a part of the story in your own words.
14. Discuss the main event (climax) and what leads up to the main event.
15. Compare / contrast two characters in the book.
16. Give your book a rating 1---5 (1 being not so good and 5 being very good.) and discuss **why** you give this rating.

Each time you finish two or three chapters, stop to reflect on some of the prompts. Return to your journal and begin a written response. Pick anything that you feel you are able to write about at that time. Then close the journal and return to it after you read more of the book. Do not cram all the questions in at once. That is not a reflection.

Responses must be 5-7 sentences in length, informative, and written in complete sentences. A paragraph-sized response is appropriate verses just a sentence. For personal thoughts and reactions, there is no limit to the length.

After reading both books, please answer the following questions in paragraph form.

1. How does an author tell his or her own story?
2. How does their own life influence the topics they write about and the characters they create?

You will bring your prompts to class for the first day of school. Please staple them together. The completed pages will represent your first graded assignment for Literature. **I will collect them on the first day.**

Enjoy your reading experiences this summer! Take a journey with some new characters!

Mrs. Klus - 6th-8th Grade Language Arts and Reading

