



Seventh Grade Summer Reading

If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young. -- Maya Angelou

Dear students entering 7th grade:

May 2009

I am excited to meet you and be your teacher during your first year at Crossroads College Prep! The members of the English Department subscribe to Angelou's belief that reading helps make us who we are. Without books, we are limited to the universe of our own experience; with books, the world is our oyster. We strongly advocate finding books that interest you and reading avidly every summer. Reading for pleasure builds skills that have application in all aspects of your life.

There are two books required for incoming 7th graders:

- *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* by E.L. Konigsburg
- Your choice of one of the following eight novels:

There is writing due for each book. The choices follow.

ADAMS, DOUGLAS, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* : Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc.

BAUER, JOAN, *Hope Was Here*: Sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move to a small town where they become involved in a campaign to force out the corrupt mayor. The story combines suspense, humor, and a bit of romance.

BLOOR, EDWARD, *Tangerine*: Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, failing to notice as Paul fights for the right to play soccer when disqualified by his bad eyesight.

HERBERT, FRANK, *Dune*: This Hugo and Nebula Award winner tells the sweeping tale of a desert planet called Arrakis, the focus of an intricate power struggle in a Byzantine interstellar empire.

HIASSEN, CARL, *Flush*: Noah's Dad cares about the environment and tries to stop a scummy businessman from polluting the Florida coastal waters, but as a result he ends up in jail. Noah and Abby try to help him.

MEYER, CAROLYN, *White Lilacs*: In 1921 Dillon, Texas, twelve-year-old Rose Lee sees trouble threatening her black community when the whites decide to take their land for a city park.

MIKAELSEN, BEN, *Touching Spirit Bear*: Cole is a juvenile delinquent who needs to learn how to manage his anger after he severely injures a classmate. **Warning:** this book has a couple of violent scenes.

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ, *Esperanza Rising*: Esperanza is forced to leave her life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California.

Sincerely, Bobby Bloch

WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1

Your writing assignments (both are charts) are due on the 1st day of school. Please read the directions carefully. E-mail me if you have any questions bobby@crossroadscollegeprep.org.

The assignment for *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* is to complete the following charts. Read through the assignment before starting the novel so as to keep the writing goals in mind as you go. I have provided an example for the protagonist, Margaret Rose.

Character	Choose 4 adjectives that capture essential elements of that person	Find a quotation that shows your adjective choice	Analysis of quotation, justifying your choice of adjectives
MARGARET ROSE <u>EXAMPLE</u>	Independent	“Gloria told me that if I didn’t hurry, the bus would leave without me, and I said that that was fine with me because I preferred not to go” (46).	This quotation shows that Margaret is independent because she stands her ground on principle, and she does not even let certain adults push her around. She speaks her mind freely and marches to her own drum.
Margaret Rose Kane	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
	Adjective #3	Quotation to prove adjective #3	Analysis of adjective #3
	Adjective #4	Quotation to prove adjective #4	Analysis of adjective #4

Character	4 adjectives	Quotation as proof	Analysis of quotation
Jake Kaplan	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
	Adjective #3	Quotation to prove adjective #3	Analysis of adjective #3
	Adjective #4	Quotation to prove adjective #4	Analysis of adjective #4

Mrs. Kaplan	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
	Adjective #3	Quotation to prove adjective #3	Analysis of adjective #3
	Adjective #4	Quotation to prove adjective #4	Analysis of adjective #4

For each of the following characters, please choose 2 adjectives.

Character	Choose 2 adjectives	Quotation that proves	Analysis of quotation
Uncle Alex	Adjective #1	Quotation proof	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation proof	Analysis of adjective #2
Uncle Morris	Adjective #1	Quotation proof	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation proof	Analysis of adjective #2

Loretta Bevilaqua	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
Peter Vanderwaal	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2

Creative Assignment: **This is due the week after classes begin.** If you would like to complete it over the summer, please feel free to do so, or you may wait until I explain it to you more thoroughly after school begins.

Part of the 7th grade curriculum is independent reading (Reading At Home—RAH). Each month you will choose a book to read, and at the end of the month, you will give a presentation on your book. This assignment on your summer choice novel is a small version of that assignment. Choose one of the following five ways to present your novel to your classmates:

- Book Jacket:** Design the new cover for the book, complete with a meaningful illustration on the front, and on the back you should provide a brief but tantalizing hint of the plot as well as a few reviews from imaginary literary critics telling us what is so extraordinary about this particular book.
- Poster:** Design the poster that will advertise your book. An effective poster will be colorful and eye-catching, and it will give enough detail to tantalize the reader (don't forget to include the title and author's name). Don't be afraid to make this multi-dimensional.
- Collage:** Put together magazine images and paste them into an array that reflects the book's themes, characters, and plot. These images must make sense according to the book. For instance, if you have a picture of grapes, a bear, and a kite, the story should either directly (literal) or indirectly (metaphorical) be about these items.
- Diorama:** This project entails finding a small box or shoebox and making a 3-D room or representation of the book's characters and setting. For instance, if you were making one for Margaret Rose, you might show her cabin at camp or her room at Schuyler Place.
- Book Review:** You are a well-known journalist with impeccable literary taste. Please tell us why you think this book is a "must read" or a "must avoid". You must give an insightful analysis of some of the literary aspects of the book that impress you or that you find frustrating without giving away too much of the plot. Please consult this source if you are not sure how to write one (but remember it is for college students): <http://depts.gallaudet.edu/englishworks/writing/bookreview.html>

There are two parts to your presentation:

- 1) Your visual project or creative writing (choice of 5 above)
- 2) Presentation to your classmates—prepare 3 or 4 note cards to use as you introduce your creative work to the class. (Your presentation should be about 2-3 minutes long.)

What you need for note cards:

Note card 1
Title and Author What kind of story it is (Is it adventure or science fiction or a personal journey?)
Note card 2
-Introduce the main characters -Brief plot set-up Do not tell the whole story, just the first three or four events that start the conflict REMEMBER: Do not give away too much of the plot because you might inspire one of your classmates to read this book, and you want him or her to be surprised.
Note card 3
Present your project: explain what you were trying to capture in your visual or read a section of your book review.
Note card 4
-Your evaluation: Did you like the book? Why or why not? Would you recommend the book?