

## **Topsail Middle School Rising Sixth Grade Summer Reading**

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett  
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac  
Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick  
Flush by Carl Hiaasen  
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman  
Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass  
Peak by Roland Smith  
Storm Warriors by Elisa Carbone  
The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg  
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

**ALL** rising sixth grade students are required to read at least one of these ten novels. These books are part of the 2009-2010 NC Middle School Battle of the Books list. You should read a book you have not previously read. Yes, we will check your AR records. ☺ If you have read all ten of these books, please contact Mrs. Szakasits, and she will provide an alternate assignment for you.

During the first two weeks of school, we will discuss these books in class, analyze the literature, discuss common elements of the novels, and complete a writing assignment based on the book. You will also have the opportunity to take the AR quiz for the book you read when you begin school in August.

Students have the option of participating in online discussions for the book they read. Satisfactory participation in the online discussion board will be rewarded with a grade to “bank” for use throughout the year. Students can use this banked grade to replace a lower grade at any point during the year. Use the rubric as a guide for determining how often you should post comments. Remember that your posts should be relevant, focused, and descriptive.

Online discussions will be conducted through a wiki (<http://6thgradetms.wikispaces.com/>), which is a collaborative website that can be accessed and edited by multiple users. The wiki is private so only users who have permission can read and post information. Email Mrs. Szakasits ([angela\\_szakasits@pender.k12.nc.us](mailto:angela_szakasits@pender.k12.nc.us)) for access to the wiki and to receive directions for posting comments.

The following bookstores have been contacted regarding summer reading novels:  
Barnes and Noble in Wilmington and Jacksonville  
Books-A-Million in Wilmington and Jacksonville  
Quarter Moon on Topsail Island

\*The Hampstead Public Library was also contacted regarding these novels.

\*\*If you need to borrow novels from TMS, contact Mrs. Szakasits (270-2612 or [angela\\_szakasits@pender.k12.nc.us](mailto:angela_szakasits@pender.k12.nc.us)).

### Rubric for Online Discussions

	<b>Average (21 points)</b>	<b>Good (23 points)</b>	<b>Exemplary (25 points)</b>
Participation in the Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adds at least two comments per week for four weeks*</li> <li>- Few posts are original topics or questions</li> <li>- Most posts are replies to other students' comments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adds at least two comments per week for six weeks*</li> <li>- Several posts are original topics or questions</li> <li>- Most posts are responses to other students' comments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adds at least three comments per week for eight weeks*</li> <li>- Posts at least six original topics or questions</li> <li>- Responds to other students' comments</li> </ul>
Expression of Posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some ideas were unclear or lacked support from the text</li> <li>- Opinions were unclear or not stated politely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most ideas were clearly stated with support from the text</li> <li>- Opinions were politely stated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comments and ideas were clearly and concisely expressed</li> <li>- Opinions were politely stated</li> </ul>
Focus and Relevance of Posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most posts are relevant and focused on the topic</li> <li>- Posts are short in length and lack insight into the topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most posts are relevant and focused on the topic</li> <li>- Comments prompt further discussion and/or describe insight into the topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Posts are consistently focused on the topic, show insight, prompt further discussion, and make connections</li> </ul>
Conventions (Spelling and Grammar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Errors in spelling and grammar are evident in several posts</li> <li>- Posts use "text" language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Few grammatical and spelling errors are found in posts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consistently uses correct grammar and spelling throughout all posts</li> </ul>

\*Include your first name and last initial in the message of your posts. When you comment on someone else's post, include his/her name at the beginning of the message.

#### Wiki Warnings:

- You are responsible for your posts and the content of them. Think before you post.
- Off-topic posts will be monitored, and you will be warned. Posting irrelevant or inappropriate comments will result in removal of access to the wiki. Remember, this is a school assignment so think before you post. What would you want your future teacher to read or have as a first impression of you?

- Be careful what information you provide in your username and discussion comments. This wiki is private, but you should still use good judgment. When in doubt, ask your parents/guardians.
- Do not invite others to join the wiki. If they want access, they should contact Mrs. Szakasits ([angela\\_szakasits@pender.k12.nc.us](mailto:angela_szakasits@pender.k12.nc.us)).