

Greetings In-Coming Grade 6 Students!

We hope you all have a wonderful, healthy summer, which will include reading **at least two** novels. Please feel free to read more!

Required: *Everyone must read*
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling.

In preparation for discussions in September, each student is **required** to respond to journal prompts as a reflection of his or her thoughts and understanding of the novel. You will be provided with a list of 25 journal prompts from which to choose. You need to answer 10 of them, thoughtfully. **You must answer Questions 1 and 2** - and then you may pick whichever other 8 you wish.

Each response should be approximately 4-6 sentences long, at a minimum. The journal entries will be due when we get back to school in September, and will constitute your first grade in English class. You may hand write your responses, use Microsoft Word, or create a Google doc. to turn in your work in September.

In addition, you must read one more book. Here is the list you may pick from:

Momentous Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling (sequel)

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (note: NOT the graphic novel!)

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm

The Thief Lord by Corneila Funke

The Boggart by Susan Cooper

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages

Scat by Carl Hiassen

These choices represent a range of Lexile and interest levels. Please choose a title that is both appropriate for and new to you. This list will be forwarded to the Winthrop Public Library, to the Winthrop Book Depot, and to Simon's Bookstore. In addition, they are all available at Barnes and Noble and from Amazon or Bookshop.org (which is an online retailer that supports local bookshops).

There will be a classroom assignment given for this second book once we return to school.

The Grade 6 Teachers are excited to meet you in September. Have a great summer - and happy reading!

Journal Prompts for Grade 6

(You must answer questions 1 and 2. After that, choose 8 others to answer for a total of 10 responses. Each response should be 4-6 sentences long.)

MUST RESPOND:

1. If you were in the story, what would your relationship be to the main character?
Why would that be your relationship and what would it look like?
2. How did you feel about the end of the story? Were you happy about the way things turned out? Upset? Frustrated? Surprised? Explain your feelings.

CHOOSE EIGHT (8) ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO RESPOND TO:

3. Describe an important event from your book and tell why it is important.
4. Who is your favorite character in your book? Why is this character your favorite?
5. What do you think happened just before your story started?

6. If you could give the main character in your book some advice, what would you tell him or her?
7. What are some qualities that are likable in the main character? What are some qualities that are unlikable? Explain your answers.
8. Is your book more funny or more serious? Why do you think so?
9. What point of view is your book written in? How do you know? Was it a good choice by the author to use that point of view? Why or why not?
10. Think of an important event in your book. How would the story have changed if this event had not happened?
11. Think of one thing the character in your book did not know or understand that would have been really helpful to him or her, had he or she known it. Explain how it would have helped.
12. List three facts about this book. Then, list three opinions about it. What is the difference between *fact* and *opinion*?
13. If you could ask the main character of this book three questions, what would you ask? Why would you want to know those things? Pick one of those questions and answer it as the main character.
14. Do you think this book was well written? Why or why not? How do you tell if a book is well written?
15. Would you be interested in reading something else by this author? Why or why not?
16. What are some important relationships in your book? Did the author portray these relationships realistically? Why do you think that?
17. Think about a supporting character in your book. How would the book be different if that character did not exist?
18. List three ways the main character changed over the course of the story. Were these changes for the better? For worse? Explain.
19. Would you like to be friends with any of the characters in this book? If so, which ones, and why? If not, how come?
20. What connections can you make between this novel and ...
 - A) Real life?
 - B) Your own life?
 - C) Movies and TV?
 - D) Other books? Describe and explain.