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Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Summer reading provides students with the opportunity to practice and maintain the reading skills and strategies they have been taught during the school year. It supports the goal “for every child to become a skilled, passionate, habitual, critical reader” (Atwell, 2007, p. 12). In addition to increasing academic skills, reading can be a means for students to connect with their family and peers.

The Flemington-Raritan Schools hope that reading books together will provide a means for parents and caregivers to become literacy partners with their children. During the summer, students who are currently in grades 4-7 will read one book from the book list and complete a graphic organizer. Students may read as many books on the list as they would like. However, only one of the books is needed for the assignment. Please work with your child to choose a book that will be challenging and enjoyable for him or her.

Your child is required to return to school in September with his/her completed graphic organizer. Students will complete an assignment about the book during the first week of school. The purpose of the assignment is to get a “snapshot” of students’ writing and comprehension skills. Teachers will use this information to plan instruction. Students also will be asked to orally share the book they read with their peers.

Some of the books can be found at the Flemington Public Library and the Hunterdon County Library on Route 12.

In addition to the information that is attached, a list of helpful websites can be located on the District’s website at <http://www.frsd.k12.nj.us>. The websites provide additional book lists and activities for your child.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Michelle M. Cook
Language Arts/Social Studies Supervisor

Flemington-Raritan Schools
Summer Reading List
5th Grade Going to 6th

Under the Blood Red Sun. Historical Fiction (challenge)

In this novel set in 1940's Hawaii, a 13-year old Japanese American boy named Tomi faces racism, violence and abuse after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After the bombing, Tomi's mother loses her job and his father and grandfather are imprisoned. As Tomi takes on the role of the "man of the house", he is supported by the fierce loyalty of his friends.

Barry, Dave. Peter and the Starcatchers. Fantasy (challenge)

This story is meant to be a prequel to the classic Peter Pan (Barrie) and details the adventures of Peter, Molly and the rest of the Starcatchers as they fight off treacherous pirates.

Birdsall, Jeanne. The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy. Realistic Fiction (challenge)

The four motherless Penderwick sisters, their dog Hound, and their absent-minded father spend their summer vacation in a cottage on the grounds of an estate owned by Mrs. Tifton. They befriend Jeffrey, the son of the lady of the manor, and enjoy some classic childhood adventures together.

Clements, Andrew. No Talking. Realistic Fiction (RR)

Who can talk the least over a two-day period at school, boys or girls? This is the challenge initiated by fifth grader Dave after completing a research project on Mahatma Gandhi.

DuPrau, Jeanne. The City of Ember. Fantasy

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

George, Jean Craighead. Julie of the Wolves. Survival/Adventure Fiction

While trying to run away from home, a young Eskimo girl becomes lost in a remote area of Alaska and is taken in by a wolf pack.

Gutman, Dan. Ray and Me. Sports Fiction/Time Travel (RR)

In this latest entry in the popular baseball card adventure series, a young boy travels back in time to 1920 with the intention of saving major league player Ray Chapman from dying after being struck in the head with a baseball.

Hiaasen, Carl. Scat. Mystery

An ecological thriller set in Florida featuring two young detectives intent on solving the disappearance of their biology teacher.

Hunter, Erin. *Into the Wild*. Fantasy

This is the first book in the Warriors series and tells the story of a house cat who decides to join a clan of warrior cats and must deal with fitting in and fighting enemy groups.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. Realistic Fiction

Twelve year-old Catherine makes up rules to share with David, her autistic younger brother, in an effort to help him understand the world around him.

Lupica, Mike. *Safe at Home*. Sports Fiction/Realistic Fiction

Nick Crandall, who has recently been adopted, struggles to prove that he is talented enough to move up to playing varsity baseball.

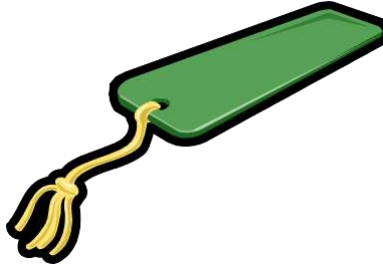
O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Survival/Adventure Fiction

A classic story of courage and self-reliance about a Native American girl who is forced to live alone for 18 years when her tribe moves away without her.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Knots in My Yo-Yo String*. Nonfiction

This is a delightful trip into Jerry Spinelli's childhood. You go back into the 1940's and 1950's as Jerry and his friends roam the neighborhoods of Norristown, Pennsylvania. Great adventure is to be had, but there also are quiet reflective moments. Readers familiar with Spinelli's books, especially *Maniac Magee*, will see the influences on his memorable characters. The book provides insight into growing up in the mid-twentieth century and how an author's childhood can influence his writing.

How do I complete the Graphic Organizer?



While reading your summer reading book, complete the provided graphic organizer. The book mark is double sided in case you need more space to write your notes. The purpose of the graphic organizer is for you to make notes on important topics that occur in the book.

You will be required to use your graphic organizer and its contents on a writing assessment that will be given during the first week of school. The graphic organizer will count as part of the overall assessment grade.

Directions: Below are specific directions on how to complete each section of the graphic organizer.

Graphic Organizer

Character Analysis: On this section of the graphic organizer, take notes on the characters in your book, their descriptions, personality traits, relationship to other characters, etc.

Plot Elements: On this section of the graphic organizer, take notes on the main plot elements that occur in the story. For example: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and conflict.

Theme & Examples: On this section of the graphic organizer, identify the overall theme of the book. The theme is the moral or lesson that is presented to the reader. Then identify three examples from the book that support the theme.

Likes & Dislikes: On this section of the graphic organizer, identify three things you liked about the book **and** three things you disliked about the book. Be sure to provide relevant text evidence to support your likes and dislikes.

Summer Reading Graphic Organizer- Complete both sides of the organizer

Character Analysis

Character Analysis: On this section of the graphic organizer, take notes on the characters in your book, their descriptions, personality traits, relationship to other characters, etc.

List some of the main characters of your story and describe them. List 2-3 adjectives to describe the characters. How do the characters act?

Plot Elements

Plot Elements: On this section of the graphic organizer, take notes on the main plot elements that occur in the story. For example: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and conflict.

Setting (describe, and include time and place):

List some main events from your book. Be sure to include events from the beginning, middle, and end of the book:

What is the *main* problem in your story? Is it solved? If so, how?

Theme & Examples

Theme & Examples: On this section of the graphic organizer, identify the overall theme of the book. The theme is the moral or lesson that is presented to the reader. Then identify three examples from the book that support the theme.

What is the lesson learned from the book? Give examples from the book that support the lesson learned.

Lesson Learned:

Example 1 – Pg.

Example 2- Pg.

Example 3- Pg.

Likes & Dislikes

Likes & Dislikes: On this section of the graphic organizer, identify three things you liked about the book **and** three things you disliked about the book. Be sure to provide relevant text evidence to support your likes and dislikes.
Be sure to refer to specific things about/in your book!

Three things I disliked about the book:

Three things I liked about the book:

