

Summer 2017



Greetings STUDENTS!

Over the summer, in addition to the other two books (fiction or nonfiction) you choose to read, all students entering Scarsdale Middle School must read the novel Schooled by Gordon Korman, an author of many popular books for young adult and middle grade readers.

Schooled features an unusual eighth grader as the main character. Capricorn Anderson, nicknamed Cap, enrolls in "C-Average Middle" School one September, but unlike the other students in his class, Cap has never attended a regular school! You will find out what his life was like before being "schooled", and you will enjoy reading about his experiences and challenges he faces as truly the new kid in school!

You will have 3 reading-related tasks to complete by the end of September. In the past, many soon-to-be sixth graders in my class have chosen to complete each as they finished their books. Responses should be typed on Google Docs. A GOOGLE DRIVE FOLDER can be made early titled MY READING WORK. Be sure to SHARE your work with me, Ms. Rene' Lund.

For your written responses, please answer in **complete sentences**. Bring each of these 3 assignments (writing and vocabulary) with you to class by the end of September. Also, please bring your copy of Schooled with you on Day 1! Be prepared to share your responses and discuss the book in English class.

Please note that you can earn EXTRA CREDIT for completing this work prior to the end of September! ☺

TASK #1: SCHOOLED READER RESPONSE: (CHOOSE 1😊 only... more for EXTRA CREDIT). Write your responses in COMPLETE SENTENCES, using as many text-based examples as possible.)

1. **Main Character Thoughts:** Capricorn, the main character, is introduced to many new ways of life after leaving his home at Garland Farm.

****What are some of the challenges he faces? (One paragraph)**

****What one challenge would have been the most difficult one for YOU?**

Describe that one challenge and state why that would have been most difficult for you. Give at least three specific reasons and explain each one as clearly as possible, using examples from the book whenever possible. (One paragraph)

2. **Opinion of Alternating Narrator Structure-** Each chapter has a narrator, and quite a few characters combine to tell different parts of the story. **Which narrator, besides Capricorn, do you like the best?** For example, did you like the calculating and devious Naomi, or did you like Zach, a character who changes into a more likeable character later in the book?

**** State which character you liked best. Then, explain your choice with at least three reasons. Use examples and details from the book to explain your reasons.(One paragraph)**

****If that character came to visit you here in Scarsdale, how would you spend your time with him/her? Be specific and explain why you would choose each particular activity. (One paragraph)**

3. **Text-To-Self Connection:** Pick some aspect of the book that connects to your life and write about the connection you found. Describe at least one connection you made with either a character or an event from the book. Be specific and give at least three details to show how your experience relates to a part of Schooled. (One paragraph) For example, have you experienced bullying in school? Do you have an older person in your life who teaches you important lessons? Do you know someone who is unique with whom you have made a friendship? (OR OTHER CONNECTIONS YOU MAKE)

4. **Text-To-Text Connection:** What character from Schooled reminds you of another character from a different book you have read? Be specific. Be sure to name the title of the book and the name of the characters. Tell what qualities these characters share or what decisions they made that are similar. (One paragraph)

TASK #2: Letter to Ms. Lund: OTHER TWO BOOKS

Write Ms. Lund a friendly letter on Google Docs about your other free-choice books. You can write a separate letter for each book or combine your ideas in one piece.

After the greeting ("Dear Ms. Lund"), name the title and author, tell and explain why you selected the book, give a brief summary (1-3 sentences) of the main events of the book, and state your opinion and recommendation.

If you chose a non-fiction book, briefly summarize the topic and tell what you found most interesting.

In your letter, be sure to include a closing ("Your future student," or "Sincerely,") and your name below your closing. Again, be sure to SHARE this on GD with Ms. Lund by the 3rd full week of school.

OPTIONAL: You may use the "Book Review- Graphic Organizer" to help you plan your ideas BEFORE writing and sending your letter on Google Docs.

TASK #3: VOCABULARY

While reading (or after, if necessary), choose a minimum of 5 (or more! 😊) "good" vocabulary words per book. These words can be recorded on Post-Its while reading. A "good" word would be defined as a word whose definition is unfamiliar to you and/or the average reader of the book.

For each word, write a clear, understandable dictionary definition or give a synonym.

FOR EXTRA CREDIT, write the word in a GOOD SENTENCE also😊

We will use everyone's lists to generate a class list of words to learn as our first Vocabulary List, so everyone's input is essential.

I hope you enjoy your summer reading! I also wish you a summer filled with lots and lots of fun! I am looking forward to having you in my English class next year!

Ms. Lund 😊

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Get in the game,
READ!

