

June, 2009

Dear Emerging Fifth Graders and Parents,

It looks as if you've made it through Lower School successfully, and are now on the verge of Middle School! Congratulations! You have a long and well-deserved summer break ahead of you. Next year, I look forward to an exciting, fun-filled year with a wonderful group of students! I understand that this is a great group of students!

As studies show, and as is the policy of The Harrisburg Academy, students maintain the academic progress they've made with continued assignments over the summer. The readings selected for this year are both challenging and enjoyable. The book assigned is:

Holes
YOUR CHOICE

Louis Sachar
List Attached/OR book distributed

The written assignments accompanying these books are as follows:

1. *Holes*: The narrative structure (the way the story is told) of this book can be difficult to follow. This book has a number of different characters and settings, including several changes in time. The story will dart back and forth between the present and distances in the past, as well as between different locations. It is however, a fun book to read and an interesting story. Your assignment for this book will be to keep track of the characters and various settings on the attached chart as follows:

You must make note of CHARACTERS as they are introduced, the SETTING (both TIME AND PLACE), the MAIN EVENTS (listed as bullet points, but clearly stated), and a space for you to note any CONNECTIONS you can make with the plot/story, flashbacks/ things you notice or want to remember.

You DO NOT have to complete this chart for every chapter, but you MUST complete it at least every THIRD CHAPTER or as things change, characters are introduced or events happen.

2. Select a book from the attached list that you would like to read. Read and enjoy the book! Write a ONE paragraph OPINION of the book (Total: 5-7 sentences ONLY. Choose your words/sentences carefully!) This should NOT be a plot summary, but your opinion of the book and WHY you hold that opinion. You may support your opinions using examples from the book. Include the title and author.

~OVER~

- 3. Additional required writing assignment: Write a letter to your teacher, Mrs. March, telling her ALL about her new student (YOU)! Talk about what makes her new student “tick”; what motivates her new fifth grader? What are his/her likes/dislikes, strengths/weaknesses, goals, hobbies, family? Include anything you think Mrs. March would need to know in order to understand you better.**

Have your letter, *Holes*, and Opinion Paragraph assignments turned in *by the FIRST day of school*.

Parents, please help your child meet their reading and writing requirements by reminding them to work on this assignment throughout the summer. I might suggest completing one book and writing assignment each month. This can be a wonderful summer activity, and will help them stay involved with the precious skills they've worked so hard in developing during the 4th grade.

I appreciate your support and look forward to meeting you. Have a terrific, restful, and fun-filled summer.

Sincerely,

**Charlotte Ann March
Fifth Grade English Teacher**

SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS ENTERING
GRADE 5

Crispin – Avi
George Washington, Spymaster – Allen, Thomas B.
Chasing Vermeer – Balliett, Blue
Al Capone Does My Shirts – Choldenko, Gennifer
Frindle – Clements, Andrew
Sahara Special - Codell, Esme Raji
Heartbeat – Creech, Sharon
Bud, Not Buddy – Curtis, Christopher Paul
The Tale of Despereaux – DiCamillo, Kate
The Homework Machine – Gutman, Dan
Ida B. – Hannigan, Katherine
Olive's Ocean - Henkes, Kevin
Island of the Aunts – Ibbotson, Eva
The Outcasts of 19 Schuylers Place – Konigsberg, E.L.
The Ring of Endless Light – L'Engle, Madeleine
Rules - Lord, Cynthia
Number the Stars – Lowry, Lois
The Book of Coupons - Morgenstern, Susie
North – Napoli, Donna Jo
Saving Shiloh – Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Rascal – North, Sterling
How to Steal a Dog - O'Connor, Barbara
Hatchet – Paulsen, Gary
The Invention of Hugo Cabret – Selznick, Brian
Rowan Hood, Outlaw Girl of Sherwood – Springer, Nancy
Shiva's Fire – Staples, Suzanne Fisher

Newer Releases

The Penderwicks of Gardam Street, Jeanne Birdsall
Eleven, Patricia Reilly Giff
Warriors: Cats of the Clans (series), Erin Hunter
The Willoughby's, Lois Lowry
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies, Laura Amy Schlitz (Newbery)
Smiles to Go, Jerry Spinelli
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series), Jeff Kinney
Tales of Beedle the Bard, J.K. Rowling

Holes
By Louis Sachar
Narrative Structure
Characters & Settings

CHAPTER #s	CHARACTERS INTRODUCED	SETTING PLACE/TIME	MAIN EVENTS (Bullet Points)	CONNECTIONS/FLASHBACK I NOTICED...
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