

Summer 2008

Dear Seventh Grader,

Welcome to the seventh grade! This year we will focus on some new and exciting works of literature. We will also expand our knowledge of written English. In order to prepare for the upcoming year, you must complete some work over the summer.

The purposes of our summer literacy program for BPCPS students are to promote continuous reading habits, to encourage reading for pleasure, to maintain writing skills and to establish a springboard for class discussion in the fall. Our goal is to develop independent readers and writers who will continue good literacy habits because they find personal value in reading and sharing good books.

Just like last summer, all seventh graders must read at least two books over the summer. One of the books you read must be from this list; the other book is your choice. (You may read your second book from this list if you'd like.) Try the Boston Public Library or a bookstore for other books.

After you have enjoyed your books, you are to complete the attached assignments. Put the same effort into this assignment as you would put into your everyday work at Boston Prep. Remember, this is your first graded Reading AND Writing assignment of the seventh grade! This counts as a TEST grade. Make it SPECTACULAR! If any questions are left blank, you will not receive credit on this assignment.

This is a required assignment; it is due on **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

See you in the fall!

Your reading and writing teachers

Summer Reading
Grade 7
Summer 2008

We recommend the following list of books for your summer reading. All seventh grade students must read at least two books over the summer. Only one of these books must be from this list. The other book is your choice. (You may read your second book from this list if you'd like.)

The assignment is attached to this book list. This assignment, like all Boston Prep assignments, needs to be complete. If any questions are left blank, you will not receive credit on this assignment. You will be graded on your work.

Remember, this is your first graded assignment for the 2008-09 school year. Do your best!

For readers who are struggling:

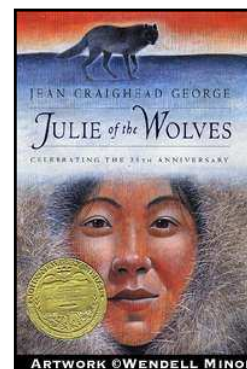
Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen

Nightjohn is a story that is set in the south during the time of slavery. Based on an actual incident, Gary Paulsen tells about a young slave girl, Sarny, who is taught to read by another slave, Nightjohn. The book is very well written, complete with dialect that makes the book even more interesting to read. Nightjohn has escaped to the North where he was taught to read, but he keeps coming back to the south to further educate the slaves of the plantations. Nightjohn meets Sarny and convinces her that she should learn to read. Despite knowing the consequences, Nightjohn teaches Sarny to read one letter at a time each night after the others are asleep. Nightjohn makes Sarny promise that she will never say or write the letters that he is teaching her.



Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

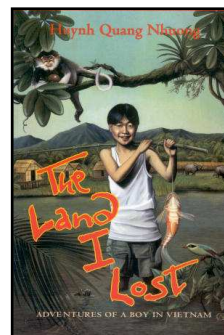
Julie of the Wolves is a book about survival in the wilderness. A young Eskimo girl, named both Julie Edward (her American name) and Miyax Kapugen (her Eskimo name), runs away from a traditional planned marriage that she finds intolerable. She becomes lost on the vast North Slope of the Alaskan Brooks Range, far away from even the most remote settlement. The long arctic winter is coming on and Julie must call on all her wits, her Eskimo skills, and her sensitivity to nature to find the food and shelter she needs to survive. Near her camp, she discovers a wolf den and...



For readers who are comfortable:

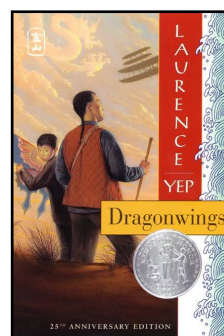
The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam by Huynh Quang Nhuong

Huynh Quang Nhuong grew up in the highlands of Vietnam, next to a jungle teeming with wildlife. Encounters with tigers, wild hogs, and deadly snakes were as much a part of his life as tending the rice fields while on the back of his pet water buffalo, Tank. Here are fifteen tales that will transport you into a world of lush beauty and terrible danger—and a way of life that is gone forever.



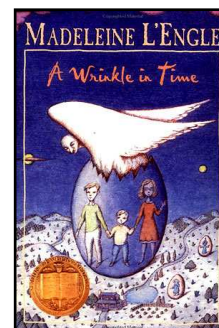
Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep

In this historical novel about the pursuit of dreams, Moon Shadow is a young Chinese immigrant who comes to San Francisco at the turn of the century to join his father Windrider, whom he has never met. At first father and son live and work with relatives in the Chinese section of town, but when a man is killed and their lives are endangered, the two move out and make friends with a woman and her granddaughter. The four survive the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, but Moon Shadow and his father are forced to move again. With Moon Shadow's help, Windrider begins to pursue some of his long-held dreams.



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

A Wrinkle in Time is the story of Meg Murry, a high-school-aged girl who is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin O'Keefe to rescue her father, a gifted scientist, from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet.



Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

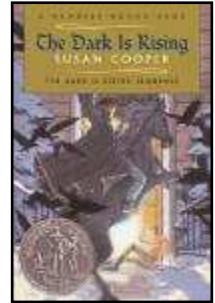
Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out—under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes—for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.



For readers who want a challenge:

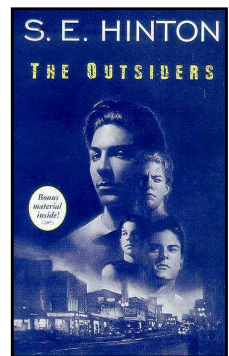
The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Strange things are happening in Will Stanton's world. Rooks are attacking people; an old tramp has come to town. And it is so cold. On the Midwinter Day that is his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift—that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. And for the twelve days of Christmas, while the Dark is rising, life for Will is full of wonder, terror, and delight.



The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Ponyboy can count on his brothers and on his friends. But he can't count on much more than trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.



<p>Task Summer</p>	<p>7th GRADE READING Summer Reading Assignment <i>Due on first day of school (test grade)</i></p>	<p>Name: _____ Date: <u>Summer, 2008</u></p>	<p>Task Summer</p>
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BOOK #1: Title: _____ **Author:** _____

(This book must be from the list.)

SUMMARY: What happens at the beginning, middle and end of this book? Summarize the book in about one paragraph.

Background information (characters, main setting):

At the beginning:

In the middle:

At the end:

OPEN RESPONSE (This must be about the book from the list)

Write an MCAS-style 3-paragraph open response to answer the following question:

Prompt:

In sixth grade, we spent a lot of time studying characters' traits and how their traits affect their lives. In the novel you just completed, what is one trait of the main character?

Include specific and relevant details from the text to support your answer.

Get FAT below:

F	
A	
T	

3 PARAGRAPH ESSAY CHECK LIST:

Introduction:

- Background Information:** Include the title, author, and a summary of the book.
- Thesis Statement:** Write a clear thesis statement that answers the prompt.

Body:

- Evidence & explanation:** Use 3 or more pieces of evidence from the book to prove your thesis. Explain your evidence.

Conclusion:

- So What?:** Explain how this trait helps the main character or affects his/her life.
- Thesis Restatement:** Restate your thesis. Leave your reader with something important to think about.

Proofreading Reminders:

- Spelling
- Punctuation (commas, apostrophes, and endmarks)
- Run-on sentences and fragments

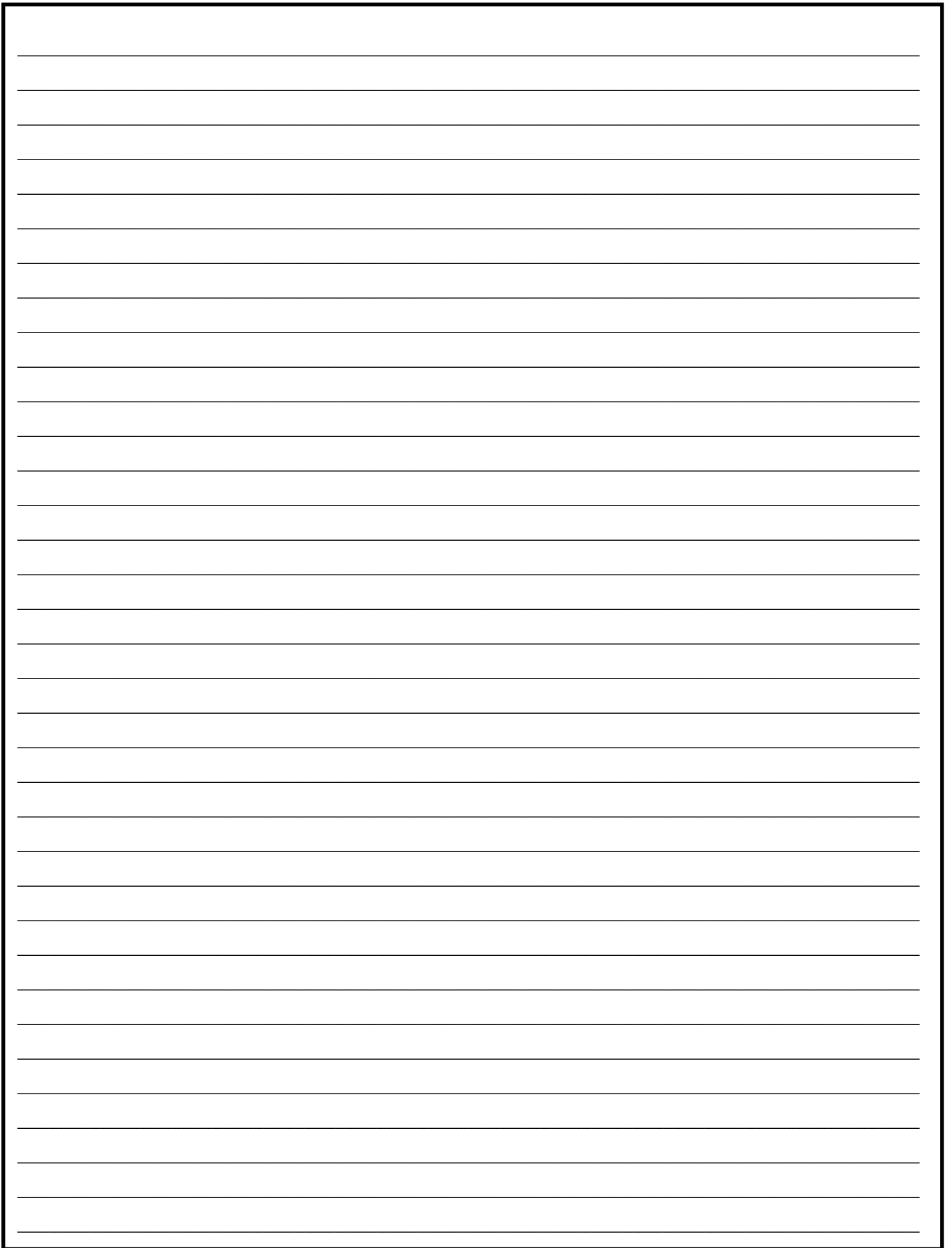
Background Information:

Thesis Statement:

Textual evidence: ****At least 3 details***

Restate/summarize evidence:

Thesis Restatement



BOOK #2: Title: _____ **Author:** _____
(*This is a book of your choice..*)

SUMMARY: What happens at the beginning, middle and end of this book? Summarize the book in about one paragraph.

Background information (characters, main setting):

At the beginning:

In the middle:

At the end:

CHARACTER TRAITS:

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. The name of the **protagonist** in this story: _____

Describe her/him in 3-5 complete sentences:

2. One **character trait** (adjective) to describe the protagonist: _____

Evidence and explanation. (Include evidence from the text and quotation marks).

This evidence was on page _____

3. Another **character trait** (adjective) to describe the protagonist: _____

Evidence and explanation. (Include evidence from the text and quotation marks).

This evidence was on page _____