

St. Joan of Arc School
35-27 82nd Street
Jackson Heights, New York 11372
A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence

SUMMER BOOK REPORTS
SEVENTH GRADE

Each student entering the seventh grade in September is required to complete FIVE Summer Book Reports. The following format MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO WHEN COMPLETING YOUR BOOK REPORTS.

Title:

Author:

Publisher: This includes the Publishing Company, City of Publication, and Year of Publication

Setting: Include both the PLACE AND TIME in which the story took place

Major Character: Only list ONE main character

Summary: MUST NOT EXCEED TEN SENTENCES

Remember that by definition summaries are brief. Good summaries use as few words as possible in order to give the reader basic information about the plot, characters, and setting of the book. A well written summary, though concise, touches on all the elements of plot- this includes an explanation of climax, or outcome, of the novel. The keys to effective summarizing are:

- 1). FOCUS ON THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THE PLOT
- 2). AVOID INCLUDING UNNECESSARY DETAILS- IN FACT KEEP DETAILS TO A MINIMUM. SAVE THEM FOR USE IN YOUR REACTION.
- 3). MOST IMPORTANTLY, KEEP IT SHORT

Reaction: MUST BE ONE FULL PARAGRAPH

Your reaction is your critical opinion of the novel. Your opinion must be supported with specific reasons and references to the book. It is IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DEFEND YOUR JUDGEMENT through the use of detailed explanations. When writing your reaction avoid the use of generalizations. Use definite and precise language. For example, do not just state that the novel was suspenseful but explain how the suspense was created, comment on what the suspense did for the plot of the novel, or discuss the affects of the suspense on the characters and you the reader. Your reaction can also comment on any lesson (theme) that the novel conveyed and how this theme relates to your life. Also, you could comment on the writing style of the book and the characters. Did you find the book easy or difficult to read? Why? Could you relate to any of the characters? Did you learn any new facts or new information by reading the book?

BOOKS MUST BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Hesse, Karen	<u>Letters from Rifka</u>
Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki and	<u>Farewell to Manzanar</u>
Houston, James	
Hobbs, Will	<u>Bearstone</u>
Yep, Lawrence	<u>Child of the Owl</u>
Yoben, Lawrence	<u>The Devil's Arithmetic</u>
Steinback, John	<u>The Red Pony</u>
Sewell, Ana	<u>Black Beauty</u>
Wells, H.G.	<u>The Time Machine</u>
Frank, Anne	<u>Diary of a Young Girl</u>
Twain, Mark	<u>The Prince and the Pauper</u>
Alexander, Lloyd	<u>The Gawgon and the Boy</u>
Steinbeck, John	<u>The Pearl</u>
Crane, Stephen	<u>The Red Badge of Courage</u>
Gipson, Fred	<u>Old Yeller</u>
Fritz, Jean	<u>Homesick, My Own Story</u>

SAMPLE BOOK REPORT

Title:	<u>The Hobbit</u>
Author:	J.R.R. Tolkein
Publisher:	Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, 2001
Setting:	Past in Middle Earth
Major Character:	Bilbo Baggins

Summary:

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who is very happy with his life in Middle Earth. Hobbits are a race of people who have furry toes and who love to eat and drink. One day, he receives a visit from a wizard named Gandalf. The wizard convinces Bilbo to join him and a group of dwarves on an adventure to recapture a treasure that was stolen by a dragon named Smug. After battling trolls, a monster called Gollum, and an army of goblins Bilbo and the dwarves are successful and recover the treasure. Bilbo then returns home to his former life.

Reaction:

The Hobbit was a great fantasy. The writing was so vivid that I felt like I was a member of Bilbo Baggins band of warriors. It was a story based on a battle between good and evil and I cheered for Bilbo in each of his battles. I was inspired by the character of Bilbo. At the start of the story, he was hesitant to take part in the quest. As the story progressed, though, he showed a great deal of bravery. Bilbo taught me that there is a hero in each of us. After reading The Hobbit, I can understand why this book is considered one of the classics of it genre.

SUMMER BOOK REPORTS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS
ARTISTIC COVERS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR SUMMER BOOK REPORTS