May 27, 2016

Dear Incoming 6th grade Students and Parents:

I am looking forward to an exciting year with you as your 6th grade teacher. Over the summer, you will be required to read two books. The first is ***Ranger’s Apprentice***, ***Book 1 The Ruins of Gorlan*** by John Flanagan and the second book is ***When My Name Was Keoko*** by Linda Sue Park. Both books will tie into curriculum we will be covering in Literature and Social Studies. Students may check out the books from the library as they do not need a copy at the beginning of the year.

Each student will be required to complete the attached written response. In addition, an oral, visual/written creative book report, (see attached page) must be created and presented for **one** of the books. The rubric for the oral presentation/creative project is attached also. Other copies may be obtained on the school website, [www.cosgriff.org](http://www.cosgriff.org), if needed.

All assignments will be collected the **2nd day of school** and grades will be included in the first quarter literature grade. These assignments will not be accepted late, therefore, please make sure they are completed before school begins.

Have a great summer and I’ll see you in August! If you have any questions, please email me, and I will get back to you.

Mrs. Newman

mnewman@cosgriff.org

Graphic Organizer- Use both books to complete the chart below.

Compare and contrast one main character from each story using the chart below. Describe physical characteristics as well as emotional and personality characteristics. This chart is ideas, not sentences.

Character \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe differences here.

Character \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe differences here.

Character \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe differences here.

Similarities:

Pick one characteristic from the graphic organizer. Write a paragraph about how the characters are different or similar relating to that one characteristic. Support your statements with examples from the novels. This paragraph must be hand written on the space below.

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**In addition to the written response, you must present an oral presentation about one book. This presentation should be no more than two minutes long. I am not looking for a telling of the story, but a way to represent and share things you have learned or are important to you from the story. The following suggestions are just that, suggestions. You may chose a different presentation than these listed.**

**Creative Visual Book Report Ideas that will be Presented Orally to the Class**

1. Character astrology signs.

After reading brief descriptions of the astrology or sun signs, figure out which signs you think three of the main characters from your book were born under. Write an explanation of why you think they fit the sign, drawing on their actions, attitudes, and thoughts from the book.

2. Heroes and superheroes.

Select two or three people your character would think of as a hero or superhero. Describe the characteristics of the hero and why those characteristics would be important to your character. Also describe which characteristics your character would most want for himself/herself that the hero or superhero possesses.

3. Talk show invitation.

Select a character, think about his or her involvements and experiences, and then figure out which talk show would most want your character on as a guest. What would they want the character to talk about? Who else would they invite on the show to address the issues the character is involved in? Write up the correspondence between the talk show host and the character in which the host explains what the character should focus on while on the show. After the show, have them exchange one more letter mentioning how they felt about what happened.

4. Radio exchange.

Your character calls into a radio show for advice. Choose which show your character would call in to and then create the conversation he or she would have with the radio advice giver.

5. Movie recommendations.

From all the movies you’ve seen in the last couple of years, pick five you would recommend that your character see. Give a brief summary of each movie and explain why you think the character should see it.

6. Title acrostic.

Take a sheet of construction paper and write the title of the book down the side of the paper. For each letter in the title, construct a sentence that begins with that letter and that tells something significant about the story.

7. Cartoon squares.

Create a series of six drawings in six squares that shows a significant event in the novel. Under each picture or cartoon, write a few lines of explanation.

8. Word collage.

Write the title of the book in the center of a sheet of paper. Then look through magazines for words, phrases, and sentences that illustrate or tell something about your book. As you look,

think in terms of the theme, setting, plot line, as well as characters. Work to get fifty such words, phrases, or sentences so the whole sheet of paper will be covered.

9. Letter exchange.

Create a letter exchange between a character and the author or write a series of self-reflective letters from several characters on what the character learned about himself, others, and life.

10. Awards.

Create an award for each of the main characters based on their actions in the novel.

One might be awarded “most courageous” for fighting peer pressure, another might be awarded “wisest” for the guidance he or she gave other characters. For each award, write a paragraph that explains why this character deserves this award.

11. Scrap book.

Think about all the kinds of mementos you would put in a scrap book if you had one. Then create a scrap book for your character, cutting out pictures from magazines or drawing the mementos he or she would have in a scrap book.

12. Music.

After reading a novel, figure out how you would divide up the book into sections. Then select a piece of music that you think captures the feel or tone of each section. Record the pieces and for your presentation explain what is happening in the novel during the piece of music and why you

felt this piece of music fit the section of the novel.

13. Poetry.

Write three poems in response to the novel. Poems can be about the characters, where

the book took place, or the themes in the book.

14. Tangible or intangible gifts.

Select a character and figure out what two or three things you believe your character most needs or wants. Draw or cut out pictures to represent these “gifts” and write to your character an explanation of why you picked these things out for him or her.

15. Talk to the author.

Write a letter to the author of the book explaining to him or her why you think he or she wrote the book and what he or she was trying to show through the book. Be sure to explain what

you got out of the book.

16. Draw a scene.

If you enjoy drawing, think of an important scene and draw it the way you see it. Place the characters in the scene too. Then write your explanations of why you drew the scene the way you did and why.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Points:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade:\_\_\_\_\_

20-21 pts. = A 18-19 pts. = B 15-17 pts. = C 14 pts. = D 13 & Below = F

Oral Book Report with Visual

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Visual/Written  Presentation/project | Oral  Presentation | Overall Understanding of the book shared in presentation |
| 7 | Student has gone above and beyond to create a visual presentation that is neat, colored, and correctly displays all of the necessary information.  (Title, Author, Setting, Characters and Plot) | Student speaks clearly and is easy to understand.  Make great eye contact with the audience, evidence that student has practiced their presentation and is very familiar with their book. | Student shows knowledge and creativity throughout the entire project. Student has gone out of their way to understand the theme of the book. |
| 6 | Visual presentation is neat, colored, and correctly displays all of the necessary information in a clear, easy to read format. | Student speaks clearly and is easy to understand. Makes good eye contact with the audience, evidence that student has practiced their presentation and is familiar with their book. | Student shows a clear understanding of their book. Project is neatly organized and information presented is correct. |
| 5 | Visual presentation is colored and correctly displays all of the necessary information, one or two sections of information incorrect or missing. | Student speaks clearly and is easy to understand at times. Makes inconsistent eye contact with the audience. | Student shows an understanding of their book. Most of the project is neat or some information presented is incorrect or irrelevant. |
| 4 | Colored or neatness is not used, and more than two sections of information incorrect or missing. | Student is difficult to understand and does not know material. | Student does not show an understanding of their book. The project is not neat or most information presented is incorrect or irrelevant. |