

J. E. Cosgriff 6th Grade  
Summer Reading Assignment

**Assignment:** For the summer you will read two novels that will be used throughout your 6th grade year in the English and Literature subject areas. After completing the reading of each novel, there is an assignment to complete. Although we use the books for discussion in the fall, you are not required to have a copy of the book, thus you are able to check it out from a public library to defer costs.

**Required Reading:** When My Name was Keoko by Linda Sue Parks and Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

**Purpose:** With these books, I hope to:

- Keep you reading through the summer, (I hope both books spark your interest).
- Provide a basis of knowledge for discussion as we compare author's styles, techniques, and connect to the plot of books read in class.
- Develop an understanding, for myself, of where the class is to build the curriculum for the school year.

**Procedure:**

1. After reading When My Name was Keoko, complete the attached plot diagram. Space is limited so try to be concise in responses.
2. Before reading Fish in a Tree, please read all of the directions and complete the assignments as directed.
  - Read pages 1-91.
  - Next, complete a handwritten paragraph response to the following:  
At the beginning of the story, we learn that school is painful for Ally and that she doesn't feel as if she fits in with her peers. When thinking about her class, she says, "Maybe they think I can't hear their words: Freak. Dumb. Loser" (p. 3). How might Ally feel having heard classmates use these words in describing her? Why?
  - Read the remainder of the book.
  - After completion of the book, construct a handwritten response to the following:  
On page 158, Mr. Daniels inspires Ally with a quote sometimes attributed to Albert Einstein: "Everyone is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will

spend its whole life thinking it's stupid." How does this quotation speak to Ally and her experiences? How did this moment in the text serve as a turning point for Ally?

Grading: Please remember the following:

- Assignments are due the **second day** of school. Do not bring them the first day.
- Please no late assignments!
- Read and fully complete each response in your own handwriting.
- This assignment is worth 50 points and will be part of your first quarter grade. Your assignment grade will be based on content of writing as well as following the prompt and use of age-appropriate writing conventions.

I hope you enjoy the books! Have a great summer and I look forward to having you in 6th grade in the fall. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me with questions, although at times during June and July, my access to email will be limited, but I will do my best to get you a quick response.

Enjoy the summer-

Mrs. Newman

Plot Diagram on next page

### 3. Climax

When does the main character face their problem? This is the turning part of the story... things will never be the same for the character.



### 2. Rising Action

What events happen after the exposition and before the climax?



### 4. Falling Action:

What happens immediately after the climax?



### 6. Conflict

What is the major problem in the story?



### 1. Exposition

Who are the main characters in the beginning of the story?

What is the setting in the beginning of the story?



### 5. Resolution:

What happens at the VERY end of the story?

# Plot Diagram