

## Summer Reading '10 – Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Summer is almost here! This means resting, relaxing, sunning, baseball, and ...boredom. Well, I have found a way to help beat those summertime blues – reading! Summer reading serves two purposes: keep you reading and keep you thinking over the summer. There are two novels that you are to read over the summer: **The Hundred Dresses** by Eleanor Estes and **Flipped** by Wendelin Van Draanen.

While reading, you are to keep a **reading response journal** (spiral or composition book). In your journal, relate your own thoughts and opinions on the books. If you can relate your own personal experiences to it, then please do. Your journal should contain at least fifteen entries total: five entries for Flipped, five for The Hundred Dresses, and five that notes comparisons and discussion of the two novels. A good entry will have 50-100 words. The journal must be organized in a manner that is easy for me to read/understand. Labeling each entry is a **MUST**.

### **The Hundred Dresses Response Journal:**

- \* Entry #1 should discuss the beginning of the book. (characters, setting, problem)
- \* Entry #2 should be about the middle.
- \* Entry #3 should be about the ending. (resolution, changes in characters)
- \* Entries #4-5 should focus on a particular quote or passage you find interesting. Begin these entries with the quote or passage reference and the page number on which it is found. (Here are some questions you might want to consider: Why did you choose the particular passage or quote? Do you agree or disagree with it? Have you had a similar experience? What does it mean to you?)

### **Flipped Response Journal:**

- \* Entry #1 should discuss the beginning of the book. (characters, setting, problem)
- \* Entry #2 should be about the middle.
- \* Entry #3 should be about the ending. (resolution, changes in characters)
- \* Entries #4-5 should focus on a particular quote or passage you find interesting. Begin these entries with the quote or passage reference and the page number on which it is found. (Here are some questions you might want to consider: Why did you choose the particular passage or quote? Do you agree or disagree with it? Have you had a similar experience? What does it mean to you?)

### **Comparison Entries:**

- \* What themes are common in both novels?
- \* What events from each novel illustrates these themes?
- \* Any other comparisons between the two novels.

(Your thoughts and comparisons are to do more than simply scratch the surface of the novels. Look for deeper “stuff” that each have in common. Simply saying that each book has girls in it is NOT enough.)

### **The Other Assignment:**

After completing BOTH novels, you are to write a one-page essay including the following:

- \* Author and title of each book
- \* A short summary of each book
- \* A discussion of how each book deals with the overall themes of compassion and acceptance, making use of specific examples (This is where that response journal will come in handy!)

Students are encouraged to type their papers, using 12-point Times New Roman font, with a one-inch margin on all sides. (If the paper is neatly handwritten, two handwritten pages will equal one typed page.) Students will submit their written papers during the first week of school.

### **How will I be graded?**

Reading Response Journal – 50%

Essay – 50%