



May 2018

Dear Incoming Grade 6 Student,

With your summer vacation right around the corner, I know you are looking forward to having some time to rest, read some good books, and enjoy the lovely weather.

I am excited to tell you about the books you'll be reading for your summer reading assignment. This summer, you will read two books and complete an assignment for each book. Please notice that you must read the required book, but you have a choice of selected options for your second book.

Book #1: Required Reading

Castle in the Attic, Elizabeth Winthrop

Book #2: Reader's Choice (choose one)

The One and Only Ivan, Katherine Applegate

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Brian Selznick

Shooting Kabul, N. H. Senzai

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeline L'Engle

Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Writing Assignments

For **both** books, you will complete a Reading Journal logging your response and analysis as you read. Your Reading Journal should include at least **6 entries per book and should reflect having read the entire story** - journal entries should incorporate quotes from the story's beginning, middle and end.

Directions:

1. First, use Google Docs or Microsoft Word to create a graphic organizer like the example shown on the back side of this letter. Label the left-hand column "Quote" and the right-hand "My Response."
2. Next, as you read, choose quotes or passages that are meaningful to you. Then write your quotes or passages in the left-hand column of the graphic organizer. Remember to always include the page numbers. Or, if you are reading a digital version, record the chapter numbers.
3. Finally, in the right column, write your Commentary, 2-4 sentences responding and connecting to your quote or passage using one of the following Journaling Codes. Keep in mind that your Commentary focuses on your opinion, interpretation, insight, analysis, personal response, feelings, evaluation, reflection or thoughts. Remember, do not just summarize your quote. Look into the deeper meaning.

Journaling Codes

- (CH) Characterization – Analyze details or dialog the author gives you to build his/her characters.
- (C) Connect – Make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
- (P) Predict – Anticipate what will occur based on the passage
- (L) Literary Device – analyze the author’s craft using literary terminology
- (R) Reflect – Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, about God, or just the way things work?
- (T) Theme - Determine the author’s overall message about some aspect of life through a close reading of a passage.
- (M) Mood – Determine the mood or tone of a scene and explain how that might be important.
- (BW) Biblical Worldview - Identify a passage that offers insight into the worldview of a character or the author

Sample Reading Journal Entries from *Little Women* Louisa May Alcott

Quote	My Response
“A second look showed her that the living eyes, under the bushy gray eyebrows, were kinder....and there was a sly twinkle in them.” (50)	(CH) In this quote, Alcott shows that all the earlier perceptions of Mr. Laurence were wrong. They thought him to be a grouch who kept his grandson shut up in the house all day, but when Jo actually met him he was a very nice and welcoming man.
“For love casts out fear, and gratitude can conquer pride.” (61)	(T) Alcott was trying to show the lesson of this whole ordeal with Beth being afraid of Mr. Laurence. She is showing that when two people are kind and loving to each other, they can break any barriers between them.

Remember that the use of SparkNotes or any online summary or resource as a replacement for reading the full text is considered cheating. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to read and enjoy these wonderful novels!

Please bring your printed Journals and both summer reading books with you on the first day of school. You will be completing activities in class about these books to kick off the year.

If you have any questions, please email me at tromero@fremontchristian.com.

Enjoy your summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Romero
Director of Curriculum and Instruction