

6th Grade English – Summer Connection!

Our 6th grade year in ELA is going to explore the *power of change* through the reading and writing of fictional and nonfictional texts. This idea fits nicely with the the History Day theme of “Turning Points in History” as you will do a deep-dive on an event/person/idea that changed the world and how we see it.

For your summer assignment, **please read a biography/autobiography/memoir on a person connected to your chosen topic for your history day project.** This will look different for different topics, but please try to pick someone who was involved in this turning point in some way. We are trying to really explore how life felt during this turning point and reading a biography/autobiography/memoir can help us better picture or imagine this time and place. If you have problems finding a book, please go to your local branch of the Spokane Public Library and speak with a librarian. They would be a huge help! You can also contact me. My contact information is on the second page.

Pick one influential event in their life that was explored in the book and answer the following three questions about this event. Not every event will be explored in this way, but many will have an incident, response, and reflection. This activity will tie directly into our very first unit on narrative writing as we will explore the power of telling our own story using these proven techniques.

- 1) What is your chosen “Turning Point in History”?

- 2) Who is your chosen person that is connected to your history day topic?

- 3) What is the title of the biography/autobiography that you are reading for this activity?

After you read it, please answer the following questions on the incident, response, reaction, and connection in paragraphs (6+ sentences for each question response). Please either type up your responses and print them OR print them nicely on a separate sheet of paper.

- What is the **incident** (central piece of action that is the focus of the narrative – the event that occurs)? Describe what happens in this incident with as much detail as possible.
Example: Joe got a haircut.

- What is the **reaction** (the immediate emotions and actions associated with the incident)? How did others respond? How did the character respond?
Example: People couldn’t believe his new look.

- What is the **reflection** (description that explores the significance of the incident)? What did the character learn? How were they changed by this experience? Did this influence other parts of their life?
Example: Joe learned to embrace who he is and not worry about what others thought.

- What is the **connection**? How can this connect to your own life? Have you every experienced something similar (in any way)? Try to build a connection from your life to the incident/reaction/reflection from the story. Think about the feelings of the character, the lesson they learned, and how this experience changed their life.
Example: I felt similarly when...

Summer Reading!

Also, PLEASE continue to read other things that interest, excite, and push you this summer. Here is a great checklist of other genres and topics to explore if you are interested. If you haven't tried some of these genres/styles, then give them a chance this summer! Now is a great time to explore other types of literature that you haven't experienced in the past.

Happy Reading!

- A non-fiction book
- A graphic novel
- A book that takes place in a different country
- A science fiction book
- A book on a topic you know nothing about
- A biography (bonus if you then compare it to an autobiography of the same person!)
- A book that contains a sport/activity you love
- A book about a historical event that interests you
- Listen to any audiobook
- A book from a fantasy series
- A book of short stories
- A historical fiction book
- A book that's been made into a movie
- A mystery book
- A book by someone who looks different than you
- A book that is older than fifty years

If you feel extra excited to share what you read, please complete a short book review on a separate sheet of paper (see below). I would love to get more great book recommendations from our students.

Book Review – You are a professional book critic and need to review this book. What did you enjoy about this book? What did you not enjoy? What would you change? Would you recommend it to a friend and why? How many stars (out of five) would you give this book and why? Please answer these questions in 1 – 2 paragraphs.

If you have any questions on any of the summer activities, please email me at nickm@spokaneschools.org. I should have email access and availability most of the summer 😊