

**PIN OAK SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE---2009**

Students will choose two books from the following list to read and complete four Reading Responses for each book (see instructions on the following page).  
All Reading Response Journals will be due by the end of the first week of school.

*Chance Fortune and the Outlaws* By Steve Berryhill

GENRE: Science Fiction, Lexile 870

Even though he seems to have no superhero powers, Chance is accepted into the school of his dreams, the Burlington Academy for the Superhuman, where he uses his skills to help his team and battle the forces of Evil.

*Pieces of Georgia: A Novel* By Jen Bryant

GENRE: Realistic Fiction, Lexile 1160

In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.

*Beastly* By Alex Flinn

GENRE: Fantasy, Lexile 580

Kyle Kingsbury has everything going for him - money, good looks, and charm - until the day he mocks the wrong girl (a witch in disguise) who transforms him into a terrifying beast. Kyle has two years to find true love before he becomes a monster forever in this very modern retelling of the classic *Beauty and the Beast* story.

*Dark Water Rising* By Marian Hale

GENRE: Family & Relationships, Lexile 970

Almost 8000 people died when a hurricane struck the Galveston coast in 1900. Sixteen-year old Seth survived the storm, found his way home and discovered his talents and strengths while helping to rebuild the island.

*Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist* By Kelly Milner Halls

GENRE: Science Fiction, Lexile 1160

Get the scientific facts about Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster, Chupacabra, the Mongolian Death Worm, and 50 other legendary creatures, and find out what is true, what is myth, and what just isn't known (yet).

*The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney* By Suzanne Harper

GENRE: Family life/Psychic studies, Lexile 840

Sparrow is the 7<sup>th</sup> and most powerful daughter in a family of psychics, but she wants nothing to do with her powers until a persistent ghost convinces her to help him out.

*The Floating Island: The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme* By Elizabeth Haydon

GENRE: Drama, Lexile 870

Attacked by pirates and saved by a mermaid, Ven's amazing adventures include a talking cat, ghosts, and a quest for the magical waters of the mysterious floating island.

*Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff* By Jennifer L. Holm

GENRE: Realistic Fiction, Lexile unknown

Ginny is ready for seventh grade. If she can just complete the ten items on her to-do list, everything will be perfect. But life gets in the way as she deals with family issues, problems with friends, and mishaps at school. What was supposed to be her greatest year is turning into the worst year ever!

*Schooled* by Gordon Korman

GENRE: Family Life & Relationships, Lexile 740

Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie, but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

*Epic* by Conor Kostick

GENRE: Cyberfiction, Lexile 880

On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to challenge the system in order to save his father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**Brothers, Boyfriends, & Other Criminal Minds By April Lurie**

GENRE: Social Situations, Lexile 820

April Lundquist's life has suddenly become very exciting. She lives on a street full of mafia bosses and accidentally becomes employed by Salvatore "Soft Sal" Luciano while her older brother Matt is secretly seeing another mobster's daughter. April and her friend Brandi do all they can to save the sometimes annoying, yet over-protective Matt from his impending doom amidst their own hilarious boyfriend problems.

**Breathe: A Ghost Story By Cliff McNish**

GENRE: Ghost Stories, Lexile 680

Jack is no stranger to death – he's been close before when his asthma threatened to overpower him. When he and his mother move into an old farmhouse, Jack actually begins to see the spirits of the Ghost Mother and the four ghost children she is terrorizing. As the Ghost Mother decides she wants a real child to love, Jack is drawn into a struggle with the Other World to save not only his life and his mother's, but also to reunite the ghost children's souls with their loved ones.

**What the Moon Saw: A Novel By Laura Resau**

GENRE: Fiction/People & Places/Mexico, Lexile 750

Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

**Night of the Howling Dogs By Graham Salisbury**

GENRE: Science Fiction/Fantasy, Lexile 530

Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii in 1975 find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes followed by a tsunami.

**The Wednesday Wars By Gary D. Schmidt**

GENRE: Coming of Age, Lexile 990

In a year filled with cream puff disasters, being forced to study Shakespeare, wearing yellow tights and the Vietnam War, Holling also meets the New York Yankees, makes the cross country track team and learns to stand up to his father.

**Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel By Michael Scott**

GENRE: Fantasy, Lexile 890

Nicholas Flamel, the greatest Alchemyst of his day, supposedly died in 1418. In reality, he and his wife are still alive and well today. When the book that holds the secret to eternal life is stolen from Flamel, twins Sophie and Josh find themselves the subject of a prophecy giving them the power to save the world.

**Peak By Roland Smith**

GENRE: Sports Fiction, Lexile 780

Peak was born to be a climber. After getting caught and then arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, 14 year-old Peak is "rescued" by his previously absentee father. Peak's father has an even grander plan for Peak; he wants Peak to be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest, no matter what it takes to make it happen.

**Zen and the Art of Faking It By Jordan Sonnenblick**

GENRE: Realistic Fiction, Lexile 840

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

**First Light By Rebecca Stead**

GENRE: Adventure/Mystery, Lexile 760

When twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father's research, he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life and begins an adventure he never imagined possible.

**The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart**

GENRE: Mystery, Lexile 840

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

# How to Keep a Reading Journal

What makes up a Summer Reading Journal- For each book you read you will complete (4) Reading Responses.

So, you are saying that four Reading Responses equal one Summer Reading Journal?

That's right!

How many Summer Reading Journals will I complete?- You will complete (2) Summer Reading Journals in total- (1) journal for each book you choose to read from the list.







You mean that I will write eight responses in total?

Yes!  
Now you're catching on!


How do I complete my journals?

1. Read the following reading strategies which you will need to keep in mind while reading.

## Reading Strategies for Independent Reading Logs

-  **Predict-** Before reading, look at the text, the cover, any pictures connected with the reading. Read a couple paragraphs. What do you predict the selection might be about? What might happen? Who are the people involved? As you read, stop and think about what might happen next or later in the selection.
-  **Connect-** Think about what's happening in the story. Can you connect it to any experience you have ever had? What about the character or people? Do you know anyone like them? Can you connect your own experience to any feelings, ideas or opinions expressed in the text?
-  **Visualize-** How do you see the people, places, ideas or what is going on in the selection? Pay attention to descriptions and try to imagine what things look like.
-  **Question-** Ask yourself questions about the events, people, and ideas expressed in the reading. You might say, "I wonder if these two characters are going to become friends"; "How would I feel if this happened to me?"; "Is this story taking place today, or many years ago?" A good reader has lots of questions going through his mind as he/she reads. Some can easily be answered, or one might have to read further to find out.
-  **Clarify-** Good readers pause if they don't understand what they are reading. One might have to go back and read something again, or turn back to another part of the story to check on a detail. Sometimes writing something down or asking someone who may be reading the same story helps. Sometimes a reader continues to read ahead to gain more information. Stop occasionally to check your understanding.
-  **Evaluate-** Make judgments as you read. Does this situation seem real? Do you agree with what is being expressed? What is revealed about the author? How well is the story being told?

2. As you are reading, mark passages (approximately 1-2 sentences) which make you think about one of the reading strategies. You will then use these passages to write your reading responses (post-it notes are great for marking passages if you can't write in your book).






-  For each book you will need to show that you are focusing on four of the six different reading strategies. Make sure that your passages you choose help you focus on different strategies.

Are you saying that I can't write all "Prediction" responses? I'm good at predicting!

Exactly! You could write a "Prediction" response along with a "Visualize," a "Question," and an "Evaluate."


## How do I complete my journals? (continued)

3. When you find a passage you want to write about, use the format given in the example and write a response to it. Your response should be written in complete sentences and will most likely be 2-4 sentences long.

-  Remember that your sixth grade reading teacher will be grading approximately 130 Summer Reading Journals! It is very important that you write them in the format we have given you. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult to grade! Make sure that you:
-  Provide the general information including your name and the book information at the top of your journal.
  -  Identify the Reading Strategy you are using for each response.
  -  Write down the page number(s) where you found your quote and copy the quote from the book.
  -  Write your response in complete sentences. Your response should be interesting and make the reader curious about the book.

## How should my Journal look?

Since journaling is a habit I would like you to develop *as you read*, the Journals will be handwritten. Please keep in mind, if I cannot read the Journal, I cannot grade it. Therefore, you will not get credit. You can write your journals on the form provided (you will need to make your own copies or download it from the Pin Oak website) or you are welcome to write your journals on your own paper (just make sure that you include all of the information from the form in the correct locations). You will hand in (2) Summer Reading Journals- one for each choice book you read.

-  Sample journals (written by former sixth grade students) are provided. Use these as a guide for what your teachers will be expecting from you!

## Summer Reading Journal Checklist

Use the following check list to make sure you have completed all elements of your Summer Reading Journals. Write down the type of responses you do for each entry to make sure you are using a variety of responses!

Book 1 \_\_\_\_\_

- Journal 1
- Response 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Response 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Response 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Response 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Book 2 \_\_\_\_\_

- Journal 2
- Response 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Response 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Response 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Response 4 \_\_\_\_\_




Okay...I think I've got this now!



I know you've got it!  
Happy Reading!



### Need More Information?

-  Go to the Pin Oak Web site [www.pinoak.us](http://www.pinoak.us). You will find information for entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> graders with sample journal pages.
-  Check out the Pin Oak Summer Reading blog at <http://pomsummerreading.wordpress.com/>.
-  Attend Pin Oak Summer Reading Workshops on June 16 or August 10. Check the Pin Oak website for registration forms and more

# SAMPLE

Name Pin Oak Student

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Response Examples  
Pin Oak Middle School

The following are examples of Reading Responses using each of the six different reading strategies. While these are set up to look very much like your Journals, remember that you only have to complete **four** responses for each journal, not all six.

Example Book Choice #1: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix Author: J. K. Rowling

### Example #1

Reading Strategy: Predict

Quote(s) from book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) covered: 19

"He could not believe what had just happened. Dementors here, in Little Whinging..."

My response:

I predict that voldemort sent the dementors to Harry. voldemort sent them to try to kill Harry or bring him to voldemort. I think this because dementors are natural allies to voldemort.

### Example #2

Reading Strategy: Connect

Quote(s) from book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) covered: 21

"Get up, you useless lump, get up!"

My response:

This reminds me of my brother. It reminds me of him because every morning I have to wake him up. This is not the easiest task. Sometimes, I call him a useless lump when he won't get out of bed!

Example Book Choice #2: The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp Author: Rick Yancey

### Example #3

Reading Strategy: Visualize

Quote(s) from book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) covered: 5-8

"I don't like football! I don't like pain."

"Oh, c'mon! They'll bounce off of you like little pygmy gnats."

My response:

If Alfred made his football team, assuming he tried out, then I can visualize his team. At ten years old, six feet tall and two hundred pounds his team might as well be ten dwarves and a giant!

Example Book Choice #2 (cont'd): The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp Author: Rick Yancey

#### Example #4

Reading Strategy: Question

Quote(s) from book:

Page(s) covered: 4-5

"Do you miss your mother? Do you hate her sometimes? Do you know your father? Do you hate him for bailing out on you in your mother's time of need?"

My response:

Why do psychologists always try to get you to hate someone? This is why I dislike them. They're annoying, like mosquitoes, sucking in information like mosquitoes suck blood.

Example Book Choice #3: Breaking Dawn

Author: Stephenie Meyer

#### Example #5

Reading Strategy: Clarify

Quote(s) from book:

Page(s) covered: 500-501

There was a small white box on her palm. "These will irritate your eyes—they won't hurt..."

My response:

The book didn't say what was in the box. The objects were just described. I read on, thinking that the explanation would come further on. On the next page, the box is referred to as a contact box, making the objects inside contacts.

#### Example #6

Reading Strategy: Evaluate

Quote(s) from book:

Page(s) covered: 540

"It was all my fault. She had come...to make peace with the Cullens, only to be angered by my camaraderie with Jacob. I wished I'd noticed her earlier, before Jacob had phased. I wished we'd gone hunting somewhere else."

My response:

Bella shouldn't blame herself for Irina's actions. Even if Bella wanted to do something differently, the past can't be changed. Jacob had to phase at some point and they had to hunt. It was a coincidence that they saw Irina, not on purpose. Bella shouldn't blame herself for not being on "red alert" because she didn't know that Irina was going to pay a visit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Responses  
Pin Oak Middle School

Book Choice    #1 or #2  
                          (circle one)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**Response #1**

Reading Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_

Quote(s) from book:                      Page(s) covered: \_\_\_\_\_

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My response:

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**Response #2**

Reading Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_

Quote(s) from book:                      Page(s) covered: \_\_\_\_\_

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My response:

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**Response #3**

Reading Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_

Quote(s) from book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) covered: \_\_\_\_\_

My response:

**Response #4**

Reading Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_

Quote(s) from book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) covered: \_\_\_\_\_

My response:

**Check List:**

*I have included:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ my name,
- \_\_\_\_\_ title of the book,
- \_\_\_\_\_ the author,
- \_\_\_\_\_ a quote from the book and the page(s) where I found the quote.

*When completing my responses I have:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ used (4) different reading strategies,
- \_\_\_\_\_ written my responses neatly,
- \_\_\_\_\_ written thoughtful, interesting responses.

\*Remember: You must read and complete responses for two books on the Summer Reading List. Reading Journals will be due the first week of school!