

**Summer Reading – Incoming Grade 7
Academy for the Gifted & Talented
Quail Valley Middle School**

REQUIRED READING (two novels)

The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

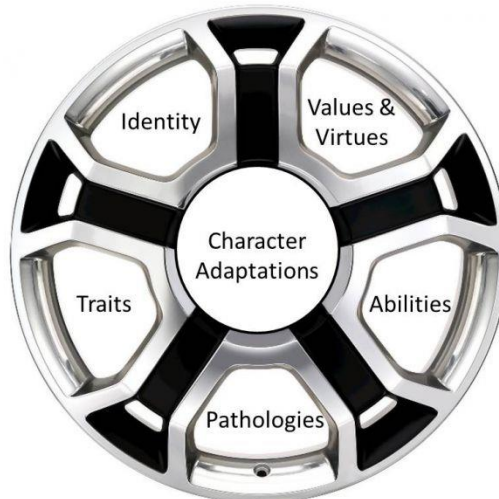
Choose ONE of the assignment options and complete it as outlined. *Remember, no matter which choice you choose, one aspect of any summer reading assignment is to provide details from the story and develop your ideas to show that you have truly read the book and thought about it.* This means do more than the minimum even though it's summer! 😊

Choice 1: Character Wheels (2 pages—a separate page for each novel)

After reading each novel, create a character wheel for a main character of each book.

WHEEL ONE - *The Schwa Was Here*: Antsy or the Schwa—choose one or the other.

WHEEL TWO - *Stargirl*: Leo or Stargirl—choose one or the other.



The character wheels will be based on the model above, but will be original and created by you. You are required to have all the categories (character adaptations, identity, values & virtues, abilities, pathologies, and traits), but may design your wheel creatively—it doesn't even have to be circular unless you want it to be. Look up the category terms to make sure you know what they mean!

The 4 Requirements - For each category on the character wheels, you must:

- 1) tell the character's main attributes or qualities related to the category;
- 2) provide text evidence with a page number to support your answer;
- 3) write a brief explanation of how the text supports your answer; and
- 4) include a decorative, but related visual or graphic.

Visuals and graphics should enhance the appearance of your wheels, but the emphasis should be on the writing, text, and ideas, not the visuals. The visuals may be digital or hand-drawn. No clip art.

Choice 2: Analogy Analysis (2 pages—a separate page for each novel)

An analogy is an extended metaphor that is a meaningful comparison of two otherwise unlike things based on the resemblance of a particular aspect. Read and consider the analogies from the excerpts below—one from *The Schwa Was Here* and one from *Stargirl*. Then complete the activity as described underneath.

[Excerpt from Chapter 9 of *Stargirl*]

In the Sonoran Desert there are ponds. You could be standing in the middle of one and not know it, because the ponds are usually dry. Nor would you know that inches below your feet, frogs are sleeping, their heartbeats down to once or twice per minute. They lie dormant and waiting, these mud frogs, for without water their lives are incomplete, they are not fully themselves. For many months they sleep like this within the earth. And then the rain comes. And a hundred pairs of eyes pop out of the mud, and at night a hundred voices call across the moonlit water.

It was wonderful to see, wonderful to be in the middle of: we mud frogs awakening all around. We were awash in tiny attentions. Small gestures, words, empathies thought to be extinct came to life. For years the strangers among us had passed sullenly in the hallways; now we looked, we nodded, we smiled. If someone got an A, others celebrated, too. If someone sprained an ankle, others felt the pain. We discovered the color of each other's eyes.

It was a rebellion she led, a rebellion for rather than against. For ourselves. For the dormant mud frogs we had been for so long.

[Excerpt from Chapter 20 of *The Schwa Was Here*]

The way I see it, truth only looks good when you're looking at it from far away. It's kind of like that beautiful girl you see on the street when you're riding past in the bus, because beautiful people never ride the bus—at least not when I'm on it. Usually I get the people with so much hair in their nose, it looks like they're growing sea urchins in there—or those women with gray hair all teased out so you can see their scalp underneath, making me wonder if I blew on their hair, would it all fly away like dandelion seeds? So you're sitting on the bus and you look out through the dandelion heads, and there she is, this amazing girl walking by on the street, and you think if you could only get off this stupid bus and introduce yourself to her, your life would change.

The thing is, she's not as perfect as you think, and if you ever got off the bus to introduce yourself, you'd find out she's got a fake tooth that's turning a little bit green, breath like a racehorse, and a zit on her forehead that keeps drawing your eyes toward it like a black hole. This girl is truth. She's not so pretty, not so nice. But then, once you get know her, all that stuff doesn't seem to matter. Except maybe for the breath, but that's why there's Altoids.

The 4 Requirements - For this assignment, you must:

- 1) correctly identify the analogy/metaphor in the excerpt;
- 2) write a thoughtful explanation of how the analogy is important and meaningful related to the main events and theme(s) of the book;
- 3) provide text evidence with page numbers to show *one or more* outcomes of the novel that are connected to the analogy; and
- 4) include a decorative, but related visual or graphic.

Visuals and graphics should enhance the appearance of your work, but the emphasis should be on the writing, text, and ideas, not the visuals. The visuals may be digital or hand-drawn. No clip art.

Grading Rubric for Summer Reading Assignment

Due: Friday, August 16, 2019 (the end of the first week of school)

HINT: Include numerous details from the novel as you create your assignment, so it is clear you have read the books!

Name _____

Period ____ (fill this in once you get your schedule ☺)

AUTHOR STUDY	Not Meeting Standard (0-69)	Progressing (70-79)	Proficient (80-89)	Exemplary (90-100)
Content	Student does not qualify for above categories because content is <u>incomplete</u> or <u>unsatisfactory</u> showing little or no understanding of terms AND/OR <u>little or no</u> evidence of having read the books.	Student shows <u>unclear</u> thinking and <u>imprecise</u> understanding of the literary terms aligned with his/her choice of assignment, does NOT address <u>all 4 requirements</u> , and/or <i>student includes few specific details leaving doubt as to familiarity with the novels.</i> AND/OR Student does NOT adequately use both <u>words</u> and <u>visuals</u> and/or visuals are featured prominently with written text underutilized.	Student shows <u>acceptable</u> thinking and <u>satisfactory</u> understanding of the literary terms aligned with his/her choice of assignment, addresses all 4 requirements , AND includes a satisfactory number of details from both novels. AND/OR Student <u>proficiently</u> uses both <u>words</u> and <u>visuals</u> .	Student shows <u>insightful</u> thinking and <u>exceptional</u> understanding of the literary terms aligned with his/her choice of assignment AND, in meeting all 4 requirements of the assignment, includes numerous details <u>leaving no doubt</u> the student has read and understands both novels. AND Student <u>clearly</u> and <u>completely</u> uses both <u>words</u> and <u>visuals</u> . Written words and text are prominent feature with visuals used as support. Images used symbolically and creatively. No clip art!
Presentation	Student does not qualify for above categories because presentation is <u>incomplete</u> or <u>unsatisfactory</u> neglecting to meet the requirements of the above categories AND/OR the work demonstrates <u>little or no visible effort</u> . Unacceptable quality.	There <u>may not be 2 separate pages</u> —may have extra pages or less than 2.* AND/OR Each page DOES NOT include a heading with the student's name, the title of the book, and the author's name. AND/OR Work is <u>difficult</u> to read, is <u>poorly</u> organized and hard to understand, and/or is <u>sloppy</u> in appearance. AND/OR Work shows <u>questionable</u> time and effort. Low quality overall.	There are 2 separate pages —one for each novel.* AND/OR Each page includes a heading with the student's name, the title of the book, and the author's name. AND/OR Work is <u>mostly</u> legible, proficiently organized, and at least somewhat visually appealing. AND/OR Work shows <u>satisfactory</u> time and <u>adequate</u> effort. Acceptable quality.	There are 2 separate pages —one for each novel.* AND Each page includes a heading with the student's name, the title of the book, and the author's name. AND Work is <u>very</u> neat, logically organized, and visually appealing. AND Assignment shows <u>dedicated</u> time and <u>visible</u> effort. Exceptional quality.

*No matter which option you choose, it should be completed on paper. You are allowed to hand write it on paper **or** create it on a computer and print it on paper. You should **NOT** create a model or diorama.