

Grade 7 – GT Academy Summer Reading List

Part 1: Required Novel

The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman

To help students remember details and be prepared for the test on the required novel, it is highly suggested that they use sticky notes to track their observations and questions about characterization, plot, and themes throughout the novel. **Students should also note examples of foreshadowing and irony in the novel.**

- **foreshadowing:** hints or clues earlier in a story about events that occur later in the story (*term needed for required novel*)
- **irony:** when an outcome is surprisingly the opposite of what is expected (*term needed for required novel*)

Part 2: Author Study

Choose an author and read 2-3 novels (or more) written by that author.

Students may NOT choose JK Rowling, Suzanne Collins, Rick Riordan, or Stephanie Meyers. Also, no matter your choice of author, you must have your parents sign to verify that you have not previously read the books you choose. You may choose any other author who meets with your parents' approval. Here are some suggested (not required) authors:

<i>Sharon Draper</i>	<i>Christopher Paul Curtis</i>	<i>Jacqueline Woodson</i>
<i>Walter Dean Myers</i>	<i>Rita Williams-Garcia</i>	<i>Laurence Yep</i>
<i>Brian Jacques</i>	<i>Avi</i>	<i>Sherry Garland</i>
<i>Julius Lester</i>	<i>Gary Soto</i>	<i>Gary Paulsen</i>
<i>Angela Johnson</i>	<i>Suzanne Fisher Staples</i>	<i>An Na</i>

NOTE: For the purposes of this assignment, **a novel is a book of at least 125 pages or more.** The books students choose for this assignment must meet this definition.

To help students remember details and be prepared for the project and assignment, it is highly suggested that they use sticky notes to track their observations and questions about characterization, plot, and themes throughout the novels.

**Students will use these novels for the summer reading assignment
(completed during the summer—see below)**

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Grade 7 Students QVMS Academy for the Gifted and Talented

You must **compare** and **contrast** at least 2 of the novels you read in your author's study. You may choose to *compare* and *contrast* more than 2 of the novels. Create your *comparison/contrast* on 3 separate pages—one focused on characterization, one focused on plots, and one focused on themes. Each page must have a heading that includes your name, the author's name, and the titles of the novels (with the number of pages in each book) you are *comparing* and *contrasting*. For each focus, you should use BOTH **words** and **images** to *compare* and *contrast* the novels. No clip art! Images should NOT be an afterthought and should be symbolic and creative, not literal. You must decide on the layout of your *comparison* and *contrast*, BUT it must be clear and easy to understand AND show that you truly understand the characters, plots, and themes of the novels.

Creativity within these clear parameters is encouraged! Remember, there is no way the teacher can read every novel that might be chosen, so it is up to YOU to be sure that the *comparisons* and *contrasts* are distinguishable between the novels. See the grading rubric on the back for guidance.

Summer Reading Terms and Grading Rubric for Author Study Assignment

You must review/know the following terms in order to successfully complete the summer reading and the related assignment.

- **characterization:** the main personality traits of characters conveyed through what they say, their actions, and their thoughts
- **plot:** the main events in the action of the novel; plot builds to a climax event or turning point late in the novel
- **theme:** the message(s) about life and/or human nature that the reader can learn from the story; most novels have more than 1 possible theme
- **comparison:** to show how 2 or more things are similar or alike
- **contrast:** to show how 2 or more things are dissimilar or different

Grading Rubric for Summer Reading Assignment

Due: Friday, August 26, 2016 (the end of the first week of school)

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> meaningful <i>comparison</i> and <i>contrast</i> of the novels as required.	Student shows <u>unclear</u> thinking and <u>imprecise</u> understanding of the literary terms characterization, plot, and theme. Student includes few specific details leaving doubt as to familiarity with story. Student does NOT clearly and completely <i>compare</i> and <i>contrast</i> the characters, plots, and themes of the novels using both <i>words</i> and <i>images</i> . Images are mostly literal. This can be done by hand or digitally.	Student shows <u>acceptable</u> thinking and <u>satisfactory</u> understanding of the literary terms characterization, plot, and theme AND includes a satisfactory number of details from the story. Student proficiently compares and contrasts the characters, plots, and themes of the novels using both <i>words</i> and <i>images</i> . Images not too literal. This can be done by hand or digitally.	Student shows <u>insightful</u> thinking and <u>exceptional</u> understanding of the literary terms characterization, plot, and theme AND includes numerous details <u>leaving no doubt</u> the student has read and understands the story. Student clearly and completely compares and contrasts the characters, plots, and themes of the novels using both <i>words</i> and <i>images</i> . Images used symbolically and creatively. This can be done by hand or digitally. 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 by having less than 3 pages, incomplete headings, failing to distinguish between novels, AND/OR demonstrating <u>little or no visible effort</u> . Unacceptable quality.	There <u>may not be 3 separate pages</u> —1 for characters, 1 for plot, and 1 for theme. Each page DOES NOT include a heading with the student's name, author's name, the title of each book, and the number of pages in each book.*** Presented in a way so it is DIFFICULT to distinguish between novels on each page. Work shows <u>questionable</u> time and effort. Low quality overall.	There are 3 separate pages —1 for characters, 1 for plot, and 1 for theme. Each page includes a heading with the student's name, author's name, the title of each book, and the number of pages in each book. *** Presented in a way so it is POSSIBLE to distinguish between novels on each page. Work shows <u>satisfactory</u> time and <u>adequate</u> effort. Acceptable quality.	There are 3 separate pages —1 for characters, 1 for plot, and 1 for theme. Each page includes a heading with the student's name, author's name, the title of each book, and the number of pages in each book. *** Presented in a way so it is EASY to distinguish between novels on each page. Thoughtful use of images. Work shows <u>dedicated</u> time and <u>visible</u> effort. Exceptional quality.

I, parent of _____ (please print student name neatly), testify that, to my knowledge, my child had not previously read the books he/she selected for summer reading and that, in fact, he/she read these books over summer break.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____ **THIS SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED FOR GRADE!**