
GRADE 7 ENGLISH STUDY GUIDE

All incoming 7th grade students will be required to read the following books for English class.

Canyons by Gary Paulson

So B It by Sarah Weeks

TEST ON SUMMER READING

During the first few days of school you will take a test on the summer reading books.

PROJECT

Choose ONE of the books above for a project. You will create a newspaper front page and should be prepared to give a brief oral presentation on the book. You have two parts to complete. Make sure you read and follow the directions. Points will be deducted for incorrect format.

On $\frac{1}{2}$ of a poster board, you are going to create a fictional front page of a newspaper based on story elements in your novel. It must be vertical and have a newspaper format. (headlines, pictures, names of writers, etc.)

Be creative.

Requirements:

1. Make up a clever name for your newspaper.
2. Lead story: You must write a 7-10 sentence paragraph focusing on an important event in the book. Give it a title and answer the journalistic questions (who, what, when, where, why, and how) Make sure you have a strong opening sentence in your paragraph. Include at least one character quote in your story.
3. Interview with a Character: Choose one character from the novel and conduct a mock interview. You must have an opening statement giving background and significance to the novel. Ask and answer five significant/insightful questions. Title your interview.
4. Setting: write a brief article (5-7 sentences) of interest based on the setting. Do some research about what else might be going on during that time period or in that location.
5. Advertisement: Make up an advertisement for a possible product/service that would be appropriate for your book. You may also research products that were available in that time period or location. Include a slogan and a picture.

GRADE FOR SUMMER READING: Your first grade for the year will be based on the effort that you put into your project and your grade on the summer reading test.

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

Use the questions that follow to help you understand the books you read this summer. Be sure you can answer all of the questions, as they will form the basis for a test on the summer reading. Your answers, however, will not be collected when school begins.

Canyons

1. Describe the personalities of Coyote Runs and Brennan Cole at the beginning of the novel.
2. Why do you think Brennan and Coyote Runs become so spiritually connected?
3. By the end of the novel, how has Brennan's personality changed as a result of his experiences?
4. Who are the "bluebellies" and why are they so named?
5. What is the most important lesson this novel teaches?

So B It

1. As a young child, Heidi has tremendous responsibilities. How do these experiences influence Heidi as she grows up?
2. Heidi is afraid to take the trip to Liberty alone, and several times en route she is ready to turn around and return home. What is the driving force that keeps her on the road to Liberty? Does she have any regrets? If so, what are they?
3. One of the lessons Heidi learns is that life is not fair. Discuss the people and events in Heidi's life, and list the ones that are unfair. How do these life experiences help Heidi become a stronger person?
4. Until Heidi's trip to Liberty, she lives a sheltered life with only one friend and little communication with anyone other than Bernie. Even though Bernie teaches her a multitude of lessons, do you think Heidi's social development suffers? How do you think Heidi will adjust to attending school for the first time in junior high?
5. After Heidi's journey to learn about her personal history ends, her lucky streak seems to disappear. What is the significance of Heidi losing her luck?