

Name:



**7TH GRADE
SUMMER READING 2008**



As we read, reflect on, and discuss novels, short stories, poems and plays together in 7th grade English, we will focus our attention on the theme of families. Your assignment this summer will prepare you for our literary exploration of family through your reading and reflection of two touching and entertaining novels: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton is set in the 1960's in a mid-size city in Oklahoma. Told through the point of view of 14-year-old Ponyboy, this novel describes rival gangs at war and examines the feelings of teenagers who seek acceptance and the chance for a better future.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech follows the journey of a young protagonist, Salamanca Tree Hiddle, as she travels with her eccentric grandparents from Ohio to Idaho. Salamanca is making this journey for her mother and in the process she learns a lot about herself and her family.

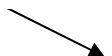
As you read these novels, consider the questions about family listed below and think about your own views about family. Write a response paper discussing how you feel the following questions about family are explored through each the book.

- *What is a family?*
- *How do individuals behave as members of a family?*
- *How do families get along or get in each other's way?*
- *How do families come together to deal with conflicts and successes?*
- *What are the strength and weakness of a family?*
- *How does a family unit influence an individual's personal growth?*



- * Response paper should be 1-1.5 pages typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font.
- * Devote approximately half your paper to discussing the theme of family in *The Outsiders* and the other half to discussing the family theme in *Walk Two Moons*.
- * Your responses will be evaluated for thoughtfulness and thoroughness.
- * In addition, be prepared to participate in class-wide discussion of each novel during the first week of school.

Wait! There's one more thing. ...



SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

If you are an avid reader and enjoy reading as much as I do, two books just won't be enough for the summer. After all, what's better in the summer than sitting out on the beach or on your back porch with an ice-cold lemonade and a great book in hand?



If any of you are looking for some awesome books to read, which also happen to connect to our theme of family and growing up, you may want to check out any of the following titles:

Sniper by Theodore Taylor

Tangerine by Edward Bloom

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Freak by Marcella Pixley

Jaguar by Roland Smith

Slam by Walter Dean Myers



Note: There are a few on this list I haven't read myself, which have been recommended to me by other English teachers. I hope to get to chance to read them this summer, too, but I will also be counting on you all to fill me in on which novels are your favorites. (Please also feel free to let me know if there are any novels not on this list that you'd recommend. I am sure there are many wonderful novels out there that I've never heard about!)

I hope you enjoy your summer!
I am looking forward to meeting you all in the fall.

~Ms. Suchecki
Grade 7 English Teacher