Grade 8
Summer 2019
Reading Response Journal

BRACE YOURSELVES

SUMMER READING IS COMING

Name____________________________________
Summer Reading Response Journal

Title of Novel: ____________________________________________

Author: ____________________________________________

Dear Incoming Eighth Grader:

Welcome to eighth grade! We are looking forward to meeting you in September. This summer, choose one book from our required list to read. As you read, you will respond to a variety of prompts in this reading response journal. This journal will give you an opportunity to reflect on your reading and help you better understand what is happening in the novel.

You will be expected to complete FOUR sections for the novel you have chosen. Three of the responses will follow the three reading sections for your novel, and the fourth will prepare you for the writing you will be doing when you return to school in September.

Be prepared with your journal and your book on the first day of school.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Ibowicz, Mrs. Pukalo, Mrs. Lilac, Miss Cochran, Mrs. Dietz, and Mrs. Wilding
**The Crossover by Kwame Alexander:**
12-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood - he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse, in this fast and furious tale of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize that breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story’s heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. (2015 John Newbery Medal and 2015 Coretta Scott King Award Honor)

**Girl, Stolen by April Henry:**
Sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, blinded in an accident that killed her mother three years earlier, has pneumonia. As she sleeps in the back of her stepmother's car, Griffin steals it, inadvertently kidnapping her. Once Griffin's car-thief father learns that Cheyenne’s father is a wealthy executive at Nike, he decides to demand ransom. Griffin is torn between loyalty to his father and the desire to protect Cheyenne. (Black-Eyed Susan Award, among others; some references to adult situations)

**Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz:**
Survive. At any cost. Yanek Gruener is a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland when the Nazis invade. Everything he has and everyone he loves is brutally taken from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner, his arm tattooed with the number B-3087. Forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another as World War II rages around him, Yanek encounters evil he could never have imagined - and yet finds surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. Based on the astonishing true story of one extraordinary boy. (YALSA 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults Award; Holocaust and WWII-related violence and topics)

**Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard:**
This is a world divided by blood - red or silver. The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of superhuman powers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is, until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own, one that threatens to destroy the balance of power. Fearful of Mare’s potential, the Silvers hide her in plain view, declaring her a long-lost Silver princess, now engaged to a Silver prince. Despite knowing that one misstep would mean her death, Mare works silently to help the Red Guard, a militant resistance group, and bring down the Silver regime. But this is a world of betrayal and lies, and Mare has entered a dangerous dance - Reds against Silvers, prince against prince, and Mare against her own heart. (2015 Amazon.com Best Books of the Year, among others; some battle violence)
SECTION 1 READING

Directions: Read the first section of your book and choose ONE of the prompts to answer in paragraph form. The chapters for this section are listed. Explain your answers fully with multiple details from the text.

| The Crossover: Warm-Up and First Quarter | Red Queen: Chapters 1-12 | Prisoner B-3087: Chapters 1-11 | Girl Stolen: Chapters 1-12 |

- **Option 1:** Compare yourself to the main character in the story. Describe several similarities and differences with examples from the text.
- **Option 2:** Choose quotations from the first section of the book that describe character or setting. Write them down and explain them. What do they reveal about character or setting?
- **Option 3:** Is this book living up to your expectations so far? Describe why or why not. Focus on at least two aspects of the story (plot; pacing; characterization; topic; believability; style).

When you are writing a **paragraph response**, what should you include?

- A topic sentence that provides the focus of the paragraph, including title  author
- At least **three** specific examples from the text
- For each example, an analysis or explanation: what does this evidence mean and how does it support my answer?
- Transitions between the different examples and explanations
- A concluding sentence

**write your response on the next page!**
**SECTION 2 READING**

**Directions**: Read the second section of your book and answer the questions below. The chapters for this section are listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Crossover: Second Quarter &amp; Third Quarter</th>
<th>Prisoner B-3087: Chapters 12-22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Queen: Chapters 13-20</td>
<td>Girl Stolen: Chapters 13-22</td>
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1. Which character is most appealing or despicable in your opinion?

   Character: _________________________  Circle one:   Appealing   /   Despicable

   Why? _______________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

2. Make a prediction about what will happen in the final section. _________________________

   What clues led you to make your prediction? ______________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

3. What is one question you have about the story at this point? __________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________


**SECTION 3 READING**

**Directions:** Read the third section of your book, answer the following questions. The chapters for this section are listed. Explain your answers fully with details from the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Crossover: Fourth Quarter &amp; Overtime</th>
<th>Prisoner B-3087: Chapters 23-end</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Red Queen</em>: Chapters 21-end</td>
<td><em>Girl Stolen</em>: Chapters 23-end</td>
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1. Did this book make you laugh, smile, cheer, cringe or groan? ______________________
   Why? _______________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. Choose one song that would represent events or circumstances in this section of the story.
   Song & Artist: _________________________________________________________________
   Explain the song choice and the connection between the song and the story: ____________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. Choose one of the characters in the story and offer your opinion about a decision he or she made in this section of the story. Did you agree or disagree? Explain why.
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
SECTION 3 READING CONTINUED

PLOT SUMMARY (Write a 3-5 sentence summary of the story in your own words.)

CHARACTERS (List and describe 4-5 main characters from the story.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character's Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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SECTION 4: WRITING

Directions: Consider the bigger themes (or lessons about life) in the story. Three important ideas in the 8th grade literature we will be reading during the year are overcoming obstacles, perseverance and accepting others’ differences. In September, you will be asked to write about the connection between your story and one of the ideas from our literature. Use the chart below to record some of your ideas and examples.

Which one of these ideas best relates to a theme in your story?

Circle one:

- Overcoming obstacles
- Perseverance
- Accepting others

Use this chart to record some of the examples from the text that illustrate the theme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary (what happened)</th>
<th>Connection to theme</th>
<th>Page #</th>
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(Please complete 3-5 examples.)