

Montville Township School District

Grade 7 Summer Reading

Literature/Reading

Grade 7

For students entering Grade Level Literature 7

Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Here is a novel told in forty-nine chapters! Not to worry – the chapters are short, often humorous, and filled with realistic dialogue. Although the setting is seventh grade, a series of flashbacks introduces the readers to the main character, John Coogan and Penn Webb, two seventh grade boys who meet just before first grade. The story is told from John Coogan's point of view. John, a.k.a. Crash, sees himself as a cool kid. After all, he wears the right clothes and scores touchdowns for the school football team! Conflict between the two characters occurs because John and Penn are total opposites. Jerry Spinelli provides the reader with some insights into how bullies and their victims are created, and how resolution can occur.

As you read, answer the following questions.

- What do you think motivates John and Penn to behave as they do?
- What hints are there that the main characters will change?
- How would you describe John and Penn? Their friends? Their families?

After you read, answer the following questions.

- Why do some students become bullies? Victims?
- What lessons could Lazar students learn from this book?

Be sure your work demonstrates quality.

Montville Township School District

Grade 7 Summer Reading

Literature/Reading

Grade 7 Enriched

For students entering grade 7 Enriched Literature

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

“I never had a brain until Freak came along...” that’s what Max thought. Then at the beginning of eighth grade, outcasts Maxwell and Kevin discover that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. Together, they were great. Together, they were unstoppable. Together, they were Freak the Mighty!

After reading ***Freak the Mighty***, answer the following questions in complete sentences using details or examples from the novel to support and explain your response. All answers should be neatly typed using a 12 font and demonstrate quality work.

- Explain who or what was Freak the Mighty.
- When and how was Freak the Mighty “born”?
- What two things happened at school on Friday, October 13th?
- What was Kevin’s Christmas gift to Max? What is special about it?
- Contrast Kevin and Max physically and intellectually. Be sure to explain each boy in both areas.

Define each literary term. Then answer the question in sentence form.

- Point of view
- From what ***point of view*** is this story told?
- Hook
- What is the ***hook*** at the beginning of the book?
- Cliffhanger
- What is the ***cliffhanger*** at the end of Chapter Fifteen? Chapter Nineteen?
- Foreshadowing
- List two events that ***foreshadow*** Freak’s death.
- Symbolism
- What do you think the empty book ***symbolizes*** for Kevin? For Max?

Montville Township School District

Grade 7 Summer Reading

Literature/Reading

Grade 7 Honors

For students entering Literature 7 Honors

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

What *wouldn't* you do for a cool \$200 million?

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unusual group of heirs for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. Surprisingly, they could become millionaires, depending on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing Game. The sixteen people gathered for the reading of the will are challenged to discover who among them is Westing's murderer. Forging ahead, through blizzards, burglaries, and bombing, the game is on. Only two people hold all the clues. One of them is Westing's heir. The other is you! Ellen Raskin has entangled a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.

When reading a who-done-it or murder mystery, you must be an active reader. That means noticing clues and formulating opinions (as to who committed the murder) while reading. As you read:

- Take notes on character pairs and clues provided in each chapter (cite page numbers for easy reference).
- Draw a chart of the apartment building indicating who lives where and the location of the stores, restaurants, or offices.

After you read:

- Explain in a paragraph who figures out the clues and gets the inheritance.