

Friday November 2, 2018

Greetings!

In literature we just wrapped up an exciting unit on poetry. Look for fantastic finished portfolios at curriculum celebration in January!

We are now a few weeks into our next unit: adventure. We are studying the Gary Paulsen novel, *Hatchet*. Please engage your student in questions about this fast-paced book. Expect to see some homework asking your child to reflect on what he or she has read, but know that most of our work will be done in class. If your child wishes to use their own copy of this book, they are more than welcome to do so and can return the school copy to me.

In addition to exploring *Hatchet*, your student is required to choose an adventure book to finish independently. There are some great books in our media center, or you are welcome to visit your own library. The requirements are that the book must fit the adventure genre, be at the "just right" level for your child, be a new book (not have been read before) and not have a movie counterpart. Books must be chosen by and brought to school by Wednesday, November 14.

In addition to reading an adventure book your child is also required to complete an independent book project at home. There are three to choose from, but only one must be done. The idea is that the final project is finished by Friday, December 21, but students can have the winter break time to finish up without penalty. Projects must be turned in by January 7. This is the first large independent project of the year and can be a bit overwhelming. You will get more information and specifics on the projects, (there is a **brief overview** on the back of this letter) as well as a suggested calendar but being aware of the due date and project choices gives you an idea to start from. Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

Johnny

"I can" statements from the common core standards that will be assessed for this independent project are:

I can determine a theme of a story from details in the book.

I can summarize the book.

I can use details from the book to describe in depth a character, setting, or event in the story.

I can write using grade appropriate skills: capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Project Choices

Quilt Design: Use quilt squares from paper, felt or other materials. Stitch or otherwise attach the squares together to form a quilt. There needs to be at least one square for the theme* of

your story and a **five paragraph*** summary. The other squares should show characters, scenes, or symbols from the book.

Life-Sized Character: Using butcher paper, draw out **life-sized** drawings of the front and back of the main character(s). Use details from the book in designing your characters. Draw or paint the faces, clothes, etc. On the back of your character write (or attach) information that tells the theme** of your story, a **five paragraph*** summary and a one paragraph character description (personality traits). Staple (or sew) the front & back of the character almost all the way around. Stuff the figures with shredded paper or cotton & finish stapling.

Book Jacket: Create a new book jacket with an original cover design and an original **five paragraph** summary* of the book on the back. The interior flaps should give an explanation of the theme* and a detailed description of a character, setting or event from the book.

*There will be a writing guide to help with the summary.

** Common book themes are survival, love and hate, crime and punishment, good and evil, chaos versus order, natural versus synthetic, old versus new, importance of friendship/family and trust