



Welcome to the Upper School! We believe that books can open new worlds and provide novel experiences to readers. Reading can help develop one's imagination and increase one's knowledge while expanding vocabulary as well as increasing composition skills. All sixth grade students are required to read Holes by Louis Sachar and Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. For Holes, students will complete the written assignment outlined below. This assignment will be graded and is due on the first day of class. While there is no written assignment for Hatchet, students will take a quiz and complete several in-class assignments on the novel. Students will also be expected to be able to compare and contrast the coming-of-age journeys of the protagonists.

I look forward to working with you,

Ms. Parker



Holes Written Assignment

Before you begin reading, please peruse the assignment below so that you know what you need to focus on as you read. In your own book, I recommend that you highlight or underline certain words or phrases that are important and take notes in the margins.

Please analyze the following in **complete sentences**. Do not write an essay, but simply type the question and respond with your answer and related supporting details.

Make your answers short and specific. Provide textual evidence with page numbers if needed.

1. General Comment:

Give a short general comment on the book. For example: Did you enjoy it? Why or why not?

2. Setting:

Describe the setting. Did it have a major effect on the novel? Why? Consider geographical location and time.

3. Characters:

Describe the main characters. Limit the main characters to three or four. Discuss their personality traits and whether they are the protagonist or antagonist and why.

4. Plot:

Define the conflict in terms of person versus person or person versus nature or person versus self. Was the resolution of the story successful or unsuccessful? Why?

5. Theme:

What is the major idea or lesson a person might remember from the novel? For example: Good triumphs over evil.

6. Point of view:

Identify the voice of the novel. First person only sees through narrator's perspective. Third person is an all knowing narrator.

7. Author's Style:

Simple or sophisticated? Give an example from the book.

8. Recommendation:

Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

Remember...

- This assignment is only on Holes.
- Please do not write an essay.
- Write in complete sentences.
- Double space.
- Use present tense.
- It is due on the first day of school.

