

The Wednesday Wars

Summer Reading Journal Project

Grade 7

Required Reading: The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Duration: June-August 2016

About the Required Reading:

This Newbery award winning novel written by Gary D. Schmidt tells a witty and compelling story about a seventh grader, Holling Hoodhood. The novel captures his mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-68 school year in Long Island, New York.

The Project

The Summer Reading Journal Project allows students to reflect on the novel as a whole. Students will create a journal based on the novel, which will include ten designated journal entries.

Materials needed:

- Required Reading book
- Composition Book (Journal)
- Various decorative materials for Journal Cover

The Journal: Over the course of the summer, students will write journal entries based on the provided prompts that relate to the novel. Students are required to decorate the cover of their journals (10 points) based on the novel. Journal entries will either be personal or a reflection of the novels themes and characterization. Each journal entry will be:

- A reflective experience
- 10-20 minutes of writing
- Evaluated on grammar and thoughtful completion
- At least ten sentences
- Worth 10 points each (Total of 10=100 points)
- Written from a prompt provided by the teacher

The journal entries will be written from prompts provided. Students must include the writing prompts in their journals. Students are expected to write 10-20 minutes, depending on the writing prompt.

Journal Entry #1 September

Writing Prompt: Are Mr. Hoodhood's motives centered on Holling, or himself? How can you tell? (Hint: Describe Mr. Hoodhood's actions)

Journal Entry #2 October

Writing Prompt: Have you read or seen any Shakespeare plays (or movies)? If so, what did you think of them? Holling did not know what to expect about Shakespeare. Have you ever had an assignment that you expected to dislike but found enjoyable instead?

Journal Entry #3 November

Writing Prompt: Like Caliban in the Tempest, Holling says that monsters have to be defeated before you can have a happy ending. Do you agree with him? Does this always happen in real life? Give at least two examples.

Journal Entry #4 December

Writing Prompt: What does this tell you about the type of person each character is? (Respond with at least 4-5 sentences for each character)

- a) Mr. Hoodhood in forgetting to drive Holling to the store.
 - b) Danny Hupfer returning the signed baseball.
 - c) Mrs. Bigio's remarks to Mai Tai
 - d) Mrs. Baker arranging for the 3 boys to meet Joe Pepetone and Horace Clark.
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Journal Entry #5 January

Writing Prompt: The chapter begins and ends with Holling walking down the hallway and everyone smiling at him. How are the two situations the same? How are they different?

Journal Entry #6 February

Writing Prompt: What is your opinion of Mr. Kowalski's actions regarding the architectural design for the new school? Describe an instance where you have gone back and changed something because you felt that you did not do the right thing the first time around.

Journal Entry #7 March

Writing Prompt: We know that Mrs. Bigio's attitude towards Mai Tai changed after being teased by the other students. Why do you think this was? How can being teased affect someone?

Journal Entry #8 April

Writing Prompt: The novel takes place in 1967=68. Mr. Hoodhood said Heather was not going to college. What were his reasons? Do you believe he was right or wrong? Do people still have this attitude today?

Journal Entry #9 May

Writing Prompt: Why didn't Holling's mother go with him to pick up his sister? What do you think of her actions?

Journal Entry #10

Writing Prompt: What did the students take to the airport when Lt. Baker was arriving? Why do you think they went? Have you ever gone to the airport to welcome someone? If so, who? Did your presence make a difference?