

TechBoston Lower Academy - Summer Reading 2010

This summer, you are required to read and respond to the book indicated for your upcoming grade. In addition to reading the book in its entirety, you must keep a Reading Journal that you will submit at the beginning of the new school year for a test grade. Completing this summer reading assignment is not an option – it is mandatory!

Grade 6	Choose 1: <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar OR <i>Taking Sides</i> by Gary Soto
Grade 7	Choose 1: <i>Tangerine</i> by Edward Bloor OR <i>Among the Hidden</i> by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Grade 8	<i>The Last Book in the Universe</i> by Rodman Philbrick

To ensure that you actually read the novel (and not a summary online), **you are required to complete a Reading Journal**. This journal can be typed or kept in a notebook and must include **five entries** to receive full credit. You may choose any five of the following questions to answer, but each entry must consist of at least **two well-developed paragraphs made up of five or more thoughtful sentences**. Capturing your ideas on **sticky notes** as you read may help when you sit down to write your entries.

1. What is the plot of this book? Summarize the plot using your own words.
2. Who are the main characters? What words would you use to describe them?
3. What is the setting of the story? Could the story be the same if it were set in another time and place?
4. Does this book remind you of any other books you've read? In what ways are the stories similar and/or different?
5. What bothers you about this book? What bothers you about certain characters?
6. How has reading this book changed your opinion of a certain person or topic?
7. Do the characters seem real and believable? Do you know anyone like them?
8. If this book were trying to teach you a lesson about life, what might that lesson be? Explain your answer.
9. What do you consider to be the three most memorable moments in the book? Explain what made these scenes so unforgettable.
10. What is your personal rating of this book (using 1-5 with five being the highest)? What are your reasons for this rating?

Extra credit will be awarded to students who read and respond to more than just the mandatory book. If you finish the mandatory book, you may select **additional titles from the list below to add to your Reading Journal**. In order to receive extra credit, you must **complete five journal entries** for each additional book that you choose.

Grade 6	<i>The Big Empty</i>	J. B. Stephens
Grade 6	<i>Chinese Cinderella</i>	Adeline Yen Mah
Grade 7	<i>Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science</i>	John Fleischman
Grade 7	<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>	Katherine Paterson
Grade 8	<i>The Misfits</i>	James Howe
Grade 8	<i>I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This</i>	Jacqueline Woodson