



Eighth Grade Summer Reading List 2010

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Everyone wants to be accepted, liked and included. Melody Brooks, diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, is no exception. While limited in her physical abilities she is incredibly intelligent with talents that surpass children her own age. Her life is filled with people that judge her on her appearance rather than trying to understand her, however, Melody works tirelessly to change the opinions of the people who can't seem to get past her physical disabilities.

Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen

In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was 15. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant or what he was fighting for, but he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. Unfortunately, the adventure turned out to be a horrible war where survival was limited, and the effects on those who made it out alive were damaging to their hearts and minds.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

As a toddler, Bod, short for Nobody, stumbles into a graveyard after his family is murdered. Here, Bod is cared for and lovingly raised by the graveyard's ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Set in Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl, fourteen year-old Billie Jo describes her daily life through her diary in a series of free-verse poems. Her writing depicts the hardships of trying to survive the heat, wind, and dust, as well as the financial crisis presented by the Great Depression. All the while, Billie Jo struggles to find who she really is in a world that is falling apart, and pursue her passion of playing piano.

Savvy by Ingrid Law

For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret, they each possess a "savvy" — a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. On the eve of Mibs' big day her father gets in a terrible car accident and Mibs knows she must use her new power to save her dad. Mibs now faces an unforgettable adventure that will force her to make sense of growing up and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin.

Gym Candy by Carl Deuker

Having grown up in the shadow of his father's failed NFL career, high-school football player Mick Johnson is determined not to make the same mistakes. But when he's tackled just short of the goal in a pivotal game, he decides that vitamin supplements aren't enough and begins purchasing steroids. Although the drugs cause his athletic performance starts breaking records, Mick becomes depressed and moody, tortured by his secret. Soon it becomes too much to handle and the star athlete falls apart to reveal a lonely, scared young man who is simply wants to be someone special.

2. Name: _____

Story Map Worksheet

Introduction: The **plot** is the sequence of events that makes up a story. A plot is comprised of exposition (background information), rising action, climax, and falling action (resolution). A plot is usually driven by a **conflict**, or problem experienced by the character. The main conflict unfolds, suspense builds, and the plot is developed in the **rising action** portion of the plot. The turning point of the story – or the **climax** – is the moment when suspense reaches its peak and results in some kind of change for the main character. The **falling action** or **resolution** portion of the plot ties up loose ends and may resolve the conflict. A **story map** is a graphic organizer that helps you to understand what you read by showing how the story's parts fit together.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. List the protagonist (main character). List other important characters in the book.
2. Where does the novel take place (setting)?
3. Briefly describe the main conflict of the novel.
4. Briefly summarize the rising action of the novel.
5. What is the climax (turning point) of the story?
6. Briefly describe the resolution of the conflict.

3. Name: _____

Character Sketch Graphic Organizer

Introduction: A character sketch highlights several important characteristics or personality traits of the literary character and provides evidence from the text for each identified trait. Some examples of character traits are as follows: honest, lazy, fearful, industrious, loyalty, kindness, determination, etc.

Directions: Choose one of the major characters from the novel. Reflect on his/her character, as portrayed in the book. Using the graphic organizer below, list a **minimum** of **three** character traits that he/she exhibits. Look back through the book. Find excerpts from the book that support the character traits you choose. List the page number(s) for reference.

Character Sketch Format/Graphic Organizer

Character Chosen: _____

Character Trait # 1 : _____

Supporting evidence from text: _____

Character Trait # 2: _____

Supporting evidence from text: _____

Character Trait # 3 : _____

Supporting evidence from text : _____

Character Trait # 4: _____

Supporting evidence from text: _____

4. Choose 3 of the following literary devices and provide examples of how the author uses them to engage the reader:

- a) Simile – comparison between 2 things using the word like or as
- b) Metaphor – comparison between 2 things that have some quality in common
- c) Personification – giving human qualities to an animal or object
- d) Imagery – words and phrases that appeal to the reader’s senses
- e) Onomatopoeia – use of words whose sound suggest their meaning
- f) Flashback – when a character or author looks back in time to recall a past event

Provide the page number and copy the sentence that best serves as an example of each three literary devices you chose.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

