

Welcome to AES 6th Grade Summer Reading

Once again, it is time to choose summer reading books in anticipation of the new school year. As sixth graders, you will read **three free choice fiction books that you have not previously read.**

For each book, you will write a **précis**. The word **précis** means summary; therefore, you will be composing summaries of your three novels. The key to writing a good précis is to stay concise, organized, and specific in your word choice. Because a précis is only seven sentences long, you must follow a structured format to complete it correctly. You will review and apply the following terms in your précis: **setting, character, plot, conflict, resolution/dénouement, and your opinion.** You can find the definitions for the terms below.

Setting: the time and place in which events in a story occur.

Character: a person, animal, or natural force presented as a person appearing in a literary work.

Plot: the sequence of events or actions in a story.

Conflict: the problem(s) in the story. It can be internal (man vs. self), external (man vs. man or society, man vs. nature, or man vs. supernatural).

Dénouement/resolution: outcome of the story.

Opinion: give your overall opinion of the book and explain your position.

Format for the Précis

Top line: Title of novel and author (Remember to underline or italicize book titles.)

Skip a line. (You must write the précis in single-spaced paragraph form. Indent the first sentence. If you are handwriting, use blue or black ink. If you are typing it, use a standard font size and type.)

1st Sentence: Discuss the setting.

2nd Sentence: Tell about the main character/characters.

3rd Sentence: Discuss the main conflict.

4th Sentence: Discuss the plot.

5th Sentence: Discuss more of the plot.

6th Sentence: Tell about the dénouement or resolution of the story.

7th sentence: Discuss your opinion of the novel.

Sample Précis

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The story takes place on a little farm in the Ozark Mountains during the depression. Billy, a ten-year-old boy, and his dogs Little Ann and Old Dan are the main characters. The conflict arises when Billy trains his dogs to be "coon" hunters. First, Billy must gain the trust of his dogs by falling an ancient tree that contains a trapped raccoon. Later, Billy receives a challenge from quarreling neighbors, enters a regional coon-hunting championship, and earns local fame because of his dogs' extraordinary skill. The story ends when a mountain lion kills one dog and the other dies of a broken heart. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel because I love my own dog, and because it told of Billy's adventures and triumphs.

Précis paragraphs may be submitted in three ways:

- a. Hand-written in blue or black ink; write on the fronts of pages only; staple the pages together. Turn in the first day of school.
- b. Type and staple the pages together. Turn in the first day of school.
- c. **Submitted online** (see attached directions). One bonus point for each online submission on or before July 31!
- d. **GUMS (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics and Spelling) will count, so please do your best.**

On-line posting directions

Go to <<http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/SixthGrade>

Click on "message board" on bottom left column

Click on "summer reading 2011-2012"

Click on "summer reading" again

Click on "instructions for summer reading"

Enter password - aes6

Click on "post reply"

Please feel free to contact me with questions. Also, please do not read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry or *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger L. Greene as these are two of our novel studies.

Happy reading and writing!

Toni Mouton

tmouton@aesgators.com