

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer provides the perfect opportunity for students and families to enjoy great books together! The goal of middle school summer reading is to foster a love of reading. Reading over the summer can also help students to maintain or even improve their reading skills.

This summer, the students will read two books:

Rising 5th Graders:

- 1) **Read:** *Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry - this book will be provided for you.
Assignment: See below on the second page of the document.
- 2) **Read:** Choose a book of your choice from [this link](#)- many of you have already chosen your book.

Assignment:

When we return to school in the fall, you will complete your first 'Book Talk' about the book that you read. I will walk you through this process when we return to school, as this will be your first time completing a 'Book Talk' for my class!

*****Bonus - these books are the books that will be used for 'Battle of the Books' this year, so we will already have a jump start for the competition!*****

These books can be found in the library, amazon, and in different e-book versions.

I am so looking forward to teaching your students next year. Have a wonderful summer!

Best,

Miss Moffet

Book #1 Assignment

Rising 5th graders will read the book *Number the Stars* by: Lois Lowry

Then, they are expected to answer **at least one question from each of the six categories in the list labeled “Questions for Any Book,” for a total of SIX questions.** We recommended that you read your book with the questions in mind. Many of the questions have two or three parts, so make sure to fully answer ALL of the questions with specific details and relevant information from the text. Enjoy and have a great summer!

You may either write your answers on notebook paper, or type your answers. However, you must label the category of the question, and the number of the questions you have chosen.

Questions for Any Book

Category 1: Characters (Choose one of these questions to answer about your book!)

1. Was there one character who was similar to you? How would the story have been different if you were the main character, and how?
2. Which character could you relate to best, and why?
3. Explain an experience of your own that was similar to someone in the book?
4. Compare a character, the story, or a main event to another book.
5. List and explain all the ways one of the characters changed in the book.
6. Explain what the main character learned in this book?
7. Choose two or three characters from the book and write what you think happens to them after the end.
Be sure to include your reasoning.

Category 2: Plot and Conflict (Choose one of these questions to answer about your book!)

1. What was more important, the characters or the plot? Was this book more about what people were doing or what people were thinking? Explain your reasons.
2. Choose three events in the story and explain why these events stand out for you as memorable.
3. Was there foreshadowing and suspense? Or, did the author give things away at the beginning of the book? Was this effective? Explain how the use of suspense and/or foreshadowing affected your enjoyment of the book.
4. Explain how you would have resolved the conflict (problem) in the book?

Category 3: Point of View (Choose one of these questions to answer about your book!)

1. Did the author use multiple voices in telling the story? How did this affect the story and your appreciation of the book? Explain!
2. Whose voice was the story told in (from whose point of view is the story told)? Explain how you think it might have been different if another character was telling the story.
3. Did you feel like the narrator was being honest in telling the story? Did you feel manipulated? Include your reasoning.
4. Was the narrator involved in the story while it was happening, or were they looking back on the events from a distance? Why do you think the author structured it this way? Include your reasoning.

Category 4: Setting (Choose one of these questions to answer about your book!)

1. Did the setting (the time and place) of the story make a difference? Could it have taken place anywhere? Why do you think the author wrote the book with this setting? Include your reasoning.
2. Was the author's description of the landscape/community well done? Could you visualize the landscape, rooms, town, etc.? Record a descriptive passage and draw a picture based on the author's language.
3. Was the time period important to the story? Why or why not? Explain!
4. Explain how the author conveyed the era (time period). Include details.
5. Did the story involve a road trip? Explain how the journey advanced the plot of the story?

Category 5: Theme (Choose one of these questions to answer about your book!)

1. Explain a major theme in the book and how it was developed. Be sure to use details and include your reasoning.
2. Are the major themes of the book relevant in your life? Why or why not? Explain!
3. Did you think the story was funny, sad, touching, disturbing, and/or moving? Provide details and reasoning as to why or why not.
4. Was the story realistic? Did it matter to the story line? Provide details and reasoning as to why you think the author wrote it this way.
5. Think about the book's title. Provide details and your reasoning to explain why you think the author chose the words in this title.

Category 6: Your Thoughts! (Choose one of these questions to answer about your book!)

1. Compare this book to others you have read. Is it similar to any of them? Did you like it more or less than other books you have read? Why or why not? Provide details and your reasoning.
2. What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book? What will be your most vivid memories of it a year from now? Provide details and your reasoning.

3. What “touched” you most about this book? Did you feel any emotions while you read this? Why or why not? Provide details and your reasoning.
4. If you could jump in at any point in this book, and become a part of the storyline, where would it be? Provide details and your reasoning.
5. Were you sorry the book ended? Why or why not? Provide details and your reasoning.
6. Sometimes authors have notes at the end of the book explaining why they wrote the story. Is there information explaining why the author wrote this story or where they got their idea? What do you think? Provide details and your reasoning.
7. What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel? Why? Provide details and your reasoning.
8. Are any of the events in the book relevant to your own life? Why or why not? Provide details and your reasoning.

