

The Wave

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 great literature. Reading over the summer can also help students maintain or even improve their reading and writing skills.

This summer, students will read [The Wave](#) by Todd Strasser

Assignment:

Students will need to read the book, but also understand that their first assignment in the fall will be to complete a 'Book Talk'. We will be discussing the 'Book Talk' expectations during the first week back to school. Those who have already presented 'Book Talks' could begin preparations as they read, but they will receive a refresher that first week.

Feel free to purchase the book or sign it out from the library. I have also [linked a pdf copy](#).

Have a wonderful summer!

The Wave by Todd Strasser

Assignment

Be prepared to answer the following questions in a Socratic seminar during the first few weeks of school.

You need to only write responses to FIVE of the ten questions.

You may choose which questions you formulate written responses to.

Written Response Expectations:

- You must have at least two examples from the text to support your answer.

- Remember that you should NOT just give a quote to answer the question

- without any connections.

- Respond, Analyze, and Evaluate - this will help you with your preparation.

In addition to answering the questions, you are required to come up with one extra question to prompt discussion among your classmates.

You will turn in your answers to the questions after the Socratic seminar. Grades will be based on both your participation and written responses.

Questions: *(Again, you only need to choose 5 questions to provide written answers)*

1. Describe the main characters in the novel, including their personalities, motivations, and how they change throughout the story.
2. What is "The Wave" and how does it begin? What factors contribute to its popularity and rapid spread among the students at Gordon High School?
3. Discuss the impact of "The Wave" on the students at Gordon High School. How does it affect their behavior, relationships, and attitudes toward authority?
4. Analyze the character of Mr. Ross, the history teacher who initiates "The

Wave." What are his intentions, and how does his experiment spiral out of control?

5. Explore the theme of conformity in the novel. How does "The Wave" exploit the students' desire to fit in? What are the consequences of blind conformity?

6. Discuss the role of peer pressure in "The Wave." How does it influence the characters' actions and decisions? Can you relate these situations to real-life experiences?

7. Examine the role of symbols and symbolism in the novel. What do the blue wave armbands and the wave salute represent? How do these symbols contribute to the story's message?

8. Describe the climax and resolution of the novel. How does the situation escalate to a breaking point, and how is it ultimately resolved? Do you find the ending satisfying? Why or why not?

9. Discuss the significance of the novel's setting and time period. How does the historical context of World War II and the rise of fascism contribute to the themes and events in "The Wave"?

10. Reflect on the lessons and messages conveyed in "The Wave." What do you think the author is trying to convey about the dangers of blind obedience and the importance of independent thinking?

Remember, these questions are intended to encourage critical thinking and analysis of the novel. Feel free to expand on the answers and provide evidence from the text to support your ideas. Enjoy your summer reading!