



Battle of the Books Summary Guidelines Our Lady of Loreto Middle School

Summer 2017

ASSIGNMENTS DUE UPON CHECK IN

1. Attached is the list of books assigned to your grade level for Battle of the Books. Select at least three of your choice from the list. Take notes of the book by filling in the plot diagram worksheet provided in this packet.
 2. Both classes, 7th and 8th grades will be reading *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park this summer.
 3. As you read your assigned book, complete a plot diagram worksheet as you read. See Step One guidelines below.
 4. Use your plot diagram and the following instructions to ***write a six paragraph summary to review and explain*** the important literary elements of the text. Generally your writing will examine:
 - Setting ((1)time and place, (2)Is setting being used to show emotion? (3)Is setting being used as a character?)
 - Characters (major/dynamic and minor/static (these are called character arcs and we will be investigates character arcs during the year), Can you define a: protagonist, antagonist, is there a mentor character?)
 - Plot (events as they happen)
 - Conflict and Climax (Moment that changes everything)
 - Person v. person
 - Person v. self
 - Person v. society
 - Person v. nature
 - Resolution (who/what wins conflict?) and Character Development/Change (so what's different at the end?)
 - Theme (Always consider the book's title for a hint)
 - Your review as the reader
- ❖ Remember, you are completing this assignment designed to continue your growth in reading and writing over the summer months.
- ❖ In addition, the charts you complete for each book will later prepare you (and your teammates) for our "Battle of the Books" when we return to school.

- ❖ Your project work for *A Single Shard* will be due the first week of school. This will include the plot chart, and the six paragraph summary.
- ❖ Your completed project for your required summer reading book is worth a total of **50 points** applied to your first trimester Language Arts grade. Each plot chart on addition Battle of the Books book is worth **30 points**. These points can be used during the year to be added if certain test grades are in need of extra points.
- ❖ Please make whatever copies of the plot diagram worksheet and rubric (one per novel). Attach them to your paper and any drafts or pre-writing you do. These forms are at the end of this document. If you read more than three, make a copy for each book. These extra copies will become your information highway for the Battle of the Books!

Step One: Read with Purpose (Repeat... and...Repeat Again)

Think of reading as investigative reporting. You are a super sleuth and you want to figure out why characters do what they do, what makes them interesting and what surprises you about a book. If you look at it like this, you will see the book come alive for you!

Take time to follow these guidelines as you read, your summary will be simple and the advantage yours in the upcoming Battle of the Books.

- ❖ For each novel you read, complete a plot map (attached). It arranges the information needed for your summary in one handy organizer.
- ❖ List the characters on the map, but you may want to take additional notes on central characters, using your own paper.
- ❖ Use the chart to record major events in the book and locations where the events take place.
- ❖ To make your report really shine, include a few short quotes from the text. You can use sticky notes to mark important passages as you read that detail pivotal events or developments in characters.

Step 2: Pre-Writing

1. Examine your plot diagram, notes, and quotes after recorded.
2. Before you begin writing, create a plan of what will be included in your paper. This is a roadmap for you to express the ideas and thoughts in your head. You can do this in the form of an outline, or by just jotting down the first sentence for each paragraph you intend to write. The structure of your paper is provided for you below.
3. Follow this general roadmap, and your six paragraphs will be easy to both read and write. Each paragraph will have its own central idea that flows into following paragraph. Don't spend too much time on this step - it should be just 10 or 20 minutes of brainstorming that should come fairly easy if you refer back to the notes you made while reading.

Prompt:

Write a six paragraph summary to review and explain the important literary elements of the text.

Step 3: Heading and Format Considerations

On the top left of your paper, complete the heading as shown below. Paper must be typed; please use Times New Roman, 12pt font with 1.15 spacing.

Your Name _____

English/Literature Grade _____

(Book Title) Summary Project

Date _____

Step 4: Get Writing

Paragraph One: Introduction

The first paragraph of your paper should include the basic facts about the book: the title (underlined), author, date published and a short summary of the setting and plot. You should also include the genre of the book and whether it is fiction or non-fiction.

Paragraph Two: Characters

For works of fiction, you should identify the major characters (protagonist/antagonist) along with a short analysis of each. Remember to focus only on the major characters of the book: give their first and last names followed by a short description of each.

Writing for middle school English, your examination of characters must be more than just the information about where characters are from and who they are related to. It's important to include a few key personality traits or other facts that affect each character. For example, "James is naive and very generous, and some of the other characters take advantage of him" or "Julia is shy in comparison to her sisters, so she often goes unnoticed at social gatherings; she spends most of her time alone." Each of these sentences describes how their personality affects their relationships with other characters in the book. This paragraph would be a prime opportunity to include some quotations from those characters that demonstrate their personality.

For non-fiction (if applicable), use this section to introduce the writer and how they are related to the book's topic.

Paragraph Three: Plot Summary

Once the characters have been introduced, describe the major events of the book's plot.

Consider: What does the major character attempt to do? To discover? To become? To overcome? To mature? To adapt? To solve? To learn? To conquer? To find?

Be sure to include the central conflict in the story, the climax when everything changed, and what happened as a result.

Paragraph Four: Plot Resolution

Consider: How are the final problems solved? How does everything work out? What is the final attitude of the main characters? Your summary should discuss the resolution of the plot by explaining how the events of the story changed the characters. Refer to your plot diagram and reading notes to help you.

For non-fiction, the plot summary is where you can describe the story or argument made by the author. Instead of focusing on events, you'll focus on main themes and statements made in the book.

Paragraph Five: Analysis

What was the message of the story? Often the title will help you understand the author's purpose. What life lesson do the major characters learn? Whatever your answer is likely the theme of the book. Similarly, if a certain object or scene occurs repeatedly throughout the book, you should take note as you'll want to describe this in the analysis. Whether it's blood, keys, rainy weather, or apples, you should explain how the repeated object stands for (or symbolizes) something important in the story.

Historical significance can also be a great topic for analysis. For example, if the book was written during or takes place in World War II, explore how it reflects the main fears or expectations of people living at that time. Note that you can approach historical significance in more than one way. A book may have been written in 1980, but it could take place in 1900. You can choose to explore either or both of these facts. Remember, *A Single Shard* was written about a different culture and a different time period. Use these facts to help you during your project analysis.

Paragraph Six: Conclusion

Offer your review of the book as a reader. Feel free to use personal pronouns as this paragraph is for your opinion. Would you recommend this book to someone else? Who do you think would enjoy

reading it? Did you enjoy it? Why or why not? Be specific. Was it too easy/too hard? Predictable/believable? Did you like the ending? What was the best thing about the book? Did it connect to you or experiences in your life?

Plot

-The story's sequence of events
(Exposition, Rising Action,
Climax, Falling Action,
Resolution [see boxes])

-Flashbacks _____

-Foresadowing _____

-Flashforwards _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

(3) Climax

-Point of greatest tension

(4) Falling Action

-Conflict outcome _____

-Resulting events _____

(1) Exposition

-Place _____

-Time _____

-Characters _____

-Main _____

-Secondary _____

Mood _____

Point of View _____

(2) Rising Action

Character Roles

-Protagonist(s) _____

-Antagonist(s) _____

Conflict _____

Mood _____

(5) Resolution

-Final outcome _____

Theme _____

-Story's meaning _____

Author's Purpose

(Persuade, inform, entertain, teach, etc.)

*** Create one chart for *A Single Shard* (required reading by everyone) and use this chart for each book you read this summer to prepare you for *Battle of the Books in the fall*

Name _____ Title _____

Ideas/Content				
Introduction includes title of text, author, year of publication, setting, plot summary, and genre	6	4	2	
Character Summaries feature main characters' first and last names along with notable details and personality traits.	3	2	1	
Quotes may be included.				
Plot summary explains major events of the story, identifies the central conflict, and describes the climax.	3	2	1	
Plot Resolution explains how the climax affected and/or changed the characters.	3	2	1	
Analysis explains life lesson learned by characters and/or themes/symbols presented by the author	3	2	1	
In conclusion, writer offers a personal commentary and review based on specific examples or details from the text	3	2	1	
50-40 A	39-32 B	31-24 C	23-16 D	%
Total ELA Points Earned _____ / 50 Points Possible _____ %				

Organization				
Overall presentation of information is easy for reader to follow and understand	3	2	1	
Six paragraphs follow structure of the "roadmap": (1) Intro (2) Characters (3) Plot Summary (4) Plot Resolution (5) Analysis (6) Conclusion	6	4	2	
Sentence Fluency				
Sentences vary in length and complexity	3	2	1	
Beginning words and phrases vary	3	2	1	
Writing has natural rhythm and flow, easy to read aloud	3	2	1	
Conventions				
Punctuation is accurate.	3	2	1	
Capitalization used effectively in sentences and in all proper nouns.	3	2	1	
Spelling contains few if any errors	3	2	1	
Presentation				
Legibly written by hand using pen and cursive				
OR Typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt font with 1.15 spacing	1		0	
Proper heading included on first page	1		0	

Print and complete one rubric for each book read, including your required reading.

Rubric Scoring Guide

Raw Rubric Score	Percentage	Points to award (out of 50)
50	100	50
49	99	49.5
48	98	49
47	97	48.5
46	96	48
45	95	47.5
44	94	47
43	93	46.5
42	92	46
41	91	45.5
40	90	45
39	89	44.5
38	88	44
37	87	43.5
36	85	42.5
35	84	42
34	83	41.5
33	81	40.5
32	80	40
31	79	39.5
30	78	39
29	77	38.5
28	75	37.5
27	74	37
26	73	36.5
25	71	35.5
24	70	35
23	69	34.5
22	68	34
21	67	33.5
20	65	32.5
19	64	32
18	63	31.5
17	61	30.5
16	60	30

Short 10 Book List 5-6 Grades 2017-18 ::

Author	Title
Bauer, Joan	Stand Tall
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons
Curtis, Christopher Paul	Bud, Not Buddy
Dowd, Siobhan	The London Eye Mystery
George, Jean Craighead	On the Far Side of the Mountain
Holm, Jennifer	Our Only May Amelia
Hunt, Irene	The Lottery Rose
L'Engle, Madeleine	A Ring of Endless Light
Sloan, Holly	Counting by 7's
Soto, Gary	Baseball in April

Medium Plus 24 Book List 7-8 Grades 2017-18 ::

Author	Title
Alcott, Louisa May	Eight Cousins
Bond, Nancy	A String in the Harp
Boyne, John	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Burgan, Michael	Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons
Curtis, Christopher Paul	Bud, Not Buddy
Dowd, Siobhan	The London Eye Mystery
Freedman, Russell	Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty
George, Jean Craighead	On the Far Side of the Mountain
Giff, Patricia Reilly	Pictures of Hollis Woods
Holm, Jennifer	Our Only May Amelia
Hunt, Irene	The Lottery Rose
L'Engle, Madeleine	Ring of Endless Light
Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard
Paterson, James	Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life
Philbrick, Rodman	The Young Man and the Sea
Shahan, Sherry	Death Mountain
Sloan, Holly	Counting by 7's
Smith, Roland	Elephant Run
Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	The Egypt Game
Soto, Gary	Baseball in April
Taylor, Mildred D.	The Land
Tolen, Stephanie S.	Surviving the Applewhites
Van Draanen, Wendelin	Sammy Keys and the Hotel Thief