



7th Grade Summer Reading Expectations



Welcome to 7th grade Language Arts. In preparation for our first few classes together, we ask that you read the novel *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, by Jordan Sonnenblick. Please come to school with the required notes, so that you are prepared for the work we have planned.

Summer Reading Expectations:

- Read the novel *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, by Jordan Sonnenblick **AND ONE additional novel of your choice.** (You are not required to jot notes for the second “choice” novel)
- **Jot notes** to record your analytical and critical thinking about *Drums, Girls, Dangerous Pie* ONLY.
- **Include only one or two important notes per chapter** to track thinking throughout the text.

Notes might pertain to:

- **story elements - characters, setting, conflict, moments of tension, climax, resolution themes, and how elements affect one another.**
 - Notice important parts to the whole story.
- **author’s crafting or writing techniques - imagery, foreshadowing, flashback, symbolism, repetition, simile, metaphor, personification, etc.**
- **Include page numbers** so you can refer to important quotes in September.
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One way to think deeply about your reading is to use the “Notice and Note” Strategies. Each strategy has questions that can be used to help you think critically about important points.

NOTICE AND NOTES STRATEGIES

CONTRASTS & CONTRADICTIONS - When a character does something that contrasts with what you’d expect *or* contradicts his earlier acts or statements, **STOP and ask, “Why is the character doing that?”** The answer will help you make *predictions* and recognize *conflict*.

AHA MOMENT - When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something, **STOP and ask yourself, “How might this change things?”** If it is about a problem, it tells you something about the *conflict*; if it is a life lesson, it tells you something about the *theme*.

TOUGH QUESTIONS- When a character asks himself a very difficult question, **STOP and ask yourself, “What does this question make me wonder about?”** The answer will tell you about the *conflict*, and help you think about what might happen later in the story.

WORDS OF THE WISER- When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, **STOP and ask, “What’s the life lesson and how might it affect the character?”** Possible *theme*.

Again & Again (repetition) - When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned repeatedly, **STOP and ask yourself, “Why does this keep repeating?”** The answer will tell you about the *theme and conflict*, or will *foreshadow* what might happen later in the story.

Memory Moment (flashback) - When the author interrupts the action to tell you about an earlier memory, **STOP and ask yourself, “Why might this memory be important?”** The answer will tell you about a *relationship, theme or conflict* or will *foreshadow* what might happen later.

