

May, 2017

Dear Upcoming 6th Grader,

We are looking forward to meeting you at LaMuth Middle School next year. Entering middle school is an exciting transition which requires more academic focus and responsibility, of which reading is a key part.

Over the summer you are required to read two novels. You must read Schooled by Gordon Korman, as well as a novel of your choice. The directions for both activities can be found on the bottom of this sheet as well as on the LaMuth website. **Both assignments are due the first week of school.**

Thank you. We look forward to a great 2017-2018 school year!

Your sixth grade reading teachers,

Mrs. Combs, Mr. Grendel, Mrs. Link, and Mrs. Vernon

Directions and Guidelines for Summer Reading

You are required to read **two** books this summer. Listed below are the expectations for each. Both requirements are due upon your return to school.

1. **Read a Novel of your choice:** You must complete 1 activity from the choice board. *This will be collected upon your return to school in August. It will be graded.*

2. **Read the novel Schooled by Gordon Korman:**

Available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and various reading apps for electronic reading devices. Please call Barnes and Noble prior to going up to purchase the book. They are aware of the high number of students who will need to complete the summer reading, but only 50-75 may be available at one time.



About the book..... Capricorn Cap Anderson has been homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Rain. When Rain is injured in a fall, Cap is forced to attend the local middle school. Although he knows a lot about Zen Buddhism, nothing has prepared him for the politics of public school.

3. **Then complete the attached comprehension packet for Schooled.** This comprehension packet will be used only as a study guide for the test you will take regarding this book upon your return to school. It will not be graded, yet you will find it helpful to prepare for your test.

**Do not let this assignment get away from you! If you answer the questions as you read, it should not be difficult.*

Suggested Summer Reading List for Incoming 6th Graders

Action/ Adventure

George, Jean *My Side of the Mountain*
Hobbs *Far North*
Mikaelsen, Ben *Touching Spirit Bear*
Paulsen, Gary *Hatchet/Tucket Adventures series (any Paulsen book)*

Fantasy

Applegate *The One and Only Ivan*
Babbitt, Natalie *Tuck Everlasting*
Collins, Suzanne *Gregor, the Overlander*
Funke, Cornelia *Inkheart*
Hunter, Erin *Warriors series*
Paterson, Katherine *Bridge to Terabithia*
Riordan, Rick *Percy Jackson and the Olympians series or The Kane Chronicle Series*
Taylor *Killer Pizza*

Historical Fiction

Ryan, Pamela Munoz *Esperanza Rising*
Nuzum, K.A. *A Small White Scar*
Dubel, Kathleen Benner *Phantoms in the Snow*
Spinelli, Jerry *Milkweed*

Humor/Comedy

Gantos, Jack *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*
Gantos, Jack *Joey Pigza Loses Control*

Mystery

Hahn, Mary Downing *Time For Andrew: A Ghost Story*
Various Authors *39 Clues*
Grisham, John *Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer*

Realistic Fiction

Clements, Andrew *A Week in the Woods*
Di Camillo, Kate *Because of Winn-Dixie*
Hahn, Mary Downing *Daphne's Book*
Paulsen, Gary *Lawn Boy or Lawn Boy Returns*
Rawls, Wilson *Where the Red Fern Grows*
Sachar, Louis *Holes*
Spinelli, Jerry *Maniac Magee, Eggs, or Crash*
Voight *Homecoming*

Science Fiction

Hirsh, Jeff *The Eleventh Plague*
Sleator, William *The Duplicate*
DuPrau, Jeanne *City of Ember*
Cole, Steve *T. Rex*
Patterson, James *Maximum Ride Series*

Sports

Christopher, Matt *Football Nightmare (any Christopher book)*
Lupica, Mike *Heat (any Lupica book)*

SCHOOLED

By: Gordon Korman

Directions: As you read the novel, answer the following questions. It is important to note that each chapter is told from a different character's point of view. This will aid in your understanding of each chapter.

Chapter 1: Cap and his grandmother, Rain, are the only remaining members of Garland Farms. Cap describes the Garland community as an "alternate farm commune" (page 4). Below is the dictionary definition of commune. Underline the definition that is closest in meaning to the way it is used in Schooled.

Commune [kām` yōōn] 1. the common people 2. the smallest administrative district of a local government in France 3. a strictly organized collective farm in China 4. a small, often remote farm community whose members share common work, interests, and income

Chapter 2: What is Mrs. Donnelly's tie to Garland Farms?

Chapter 3: What was the tradition at Claverage Middle School for nominating the class president?

Chapter 4: Cap is struggling to understand this new world into which he has been thrust. Even the most normal and simple things are frustrating and foreign to him. Discuss two things he is struggling with that you and your friends consider as "everyday life".

a. _____

b. _____

Chapter 5: This chapter is told from Hugh Winkleman's point of view. Hugh used to be the school's biggest outcast until Cap came along. Notice the many ways that Cap seems lost in his new world.

How does Cap seem lost in his new world?

1. _____

2. _____

Chapter 6: Why does Cap claim he should not be school president?

What one thing does Cap do that makes Naomi (the chapter narrator) and other students begin to see Cap as a sensitive person, rather than a nerd?

Chapter 7:

**In this chapter, Mrs. Donnelly realizes that Cap is being targeted by the big shots and bullies at school, even though he doesn't realize it himself. Notice how Mrs. Donnelly's own daughter believes this behavior is acceptable.

Chapter 8:

**In this chapter, Cap starts to realize how impossible his life has become. Notice how his previous confusion about this "new world" is turning to depression about missing Rain and the commune.

Chapter 9: What does Cap offer to do for Sophie that begins to change her attitude towards him?

Chapter 10: Why is Zach so frustrated with Cap's reactions to all his pranks?

Chapter 11: What heroic act does Cap perform?

Chapter 12:

**Notice how Cap takes everything so literally. When the police officer told him to keep his nose clean, Cap blew his nose and wiped it carefully (p. 82). Look for other examples of Cap misunderstanding people's words.

Chapter 13: Describe Sophie's relationship with her father.

Chapter 14-15

**Notice how Sophie and the other students at school are warming up to Cap. They seem less hostile towards him and even help him at times.

Chapter 16: Cap has absolutely no concept of money and banks, yet Mr. Kasigi gives him 12 checks in order to pay for the Halloween dance. What is the first thing he purchases with these checks?

Chapter 17: What did Mr. Kasigi mean when he said Cap had “followers”?

Chapter 18:

**Notice how Cap’s increased popularity is jeopardizing his friendship with Hugh Winkleman.

Chapter 19: What do Hugh Winkleman and Zach Powers discover they have in common?

Chapters 20–21: Cap, who believes in nonviolence, has two violent “accidents”. What two things happen to Cap at school that day?

**Hugh sets Cap up for a nasty prank. Notice how Hugh is behaving as badly as others have treated him in the past.

Chapter 22: What unexpected news does Cap receive?

Chapter 23: What horrible news awaits Mr. Kasigi when he returns to his office?

Chapter 24: To the kids at Claverage, it seems as though Cap has just disappeared. What do they suspect may have happened to him?

Chapter 25:

**Notice how Zach is getting payback for the way he has treated others over the years.

Chapter 26: How does Sophie finally figure out that Cap, not her father, actually had her bracelet engraved?

Chapter 27: In 1966, at the time the Beatles were making a huge impact in the U.S., Joni Mitchell (also a very popular singer of the time) produced a song titled *Big Yellow Taxi*. The refrain of this song is "Don't it always seem to go... That you don't know what you've got til it's gone". How do these lyrics apply to Cap at this time of his life?

Chapter 28:

**Notice how Mrs. Donnelly continues to discover new things about Cap, even after he is gone from her life.

Chapter 29:

**Notice that Hugh thinks it's *ironic* that the only way to clean up the mess he has made along with Zach Powers is to plan another scheme with Zach. *Irony* is defined as "an event that or result that is opposite of what might be expected". Think of things you have encountered in your own life that might be considered ironic.

Chapter 30: What amazing feat does Cap accomplish at his "memorial service"?

Chapter 31: What life-changing decision does Rain make? Why do you think she comes to this decision?

Conclusion: Many characters learn important life lessons from Cap. Who do you think benefited the most from getting to know him? In what way?

Choice Activities: Use with your free choice novel. It will be collected and graded the first week of school.

Choose from one (1) option listed below.

Option A: **Book Recommendation:** Write a 3 paragraph summary of the free choice novel you read to a friend.

The 3-paragraphs should include:

- Introductory paragraph- Intro the author, novel and genre of the novel (2-3 sentences)
- Summary- Summarize the story. Include the character(s), setting, conflict/resolution and main events of the story. Be sure you keep events in order as they are shared.
- Recommendation- Provide 3-5 sentences about reasons why you would recommend this book. Plus, support this information with evidence from the text.

Option B: **Movie Poster:** Imagine your novel just became a movie. Create a movie poster for it. Your poster must include the following:

- title
- author
- slogan or saying from the novel
- a cast of actors/actresses that would portray the characters in the movie.
- a colored illustration from any major event in the novel.

Option C: **Movie Soundtrack:** Imagine your novel just became a movie. Create a soundtrack for your novel with at least three songs.

Be sure to include:

- Burn the songs onto a CD.
- Create a jacket for the CD case.
- On a separate sheet of paper, explain in 2-3 sentences how each song relates to the book.

Option D: **Story Collage:** Make a collage poster showing pictures that relate to the book. Include images that represent the characters, setting, problem/solution, and title.

Cover the poster board completely.

Option E:

Creative Writing: Write 3 paragraphs describing a character's life twenty years from the end of the book. Include family, setting, and life events. Include details from the book that would have lasting effects. You should be able to show how/why the events occurred 20 years later based on the actual story.