



April, 2009

Dear Students:

Welcome to 7th grade Pre-AP! You are getting ready to begin an exciting and important year in your educational experience, and we want you to come to school in August ready and eager to learn.

In 7th grade Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega English language arts (ELA) and social studies (SS), you will continue building upon the foundational skills you constructed this past year in your 6th grade classes. In English, you will focus on the theme of “the quest,” the concept of self-discovery as a life-long process of challenges, choices, and changes; and you will continue to develop your cultural literacy by studying Arthurian romance. In social studies, you will learn about the various heroes, events, and stories in Texas history that strongly support “the quest” motif examined in ELA.

We don’t want to wait until next fall, however, for you to begin thinking about those qualities and habits every person needs to survive and thrive as a teenager and young adult. Therefore, this summer we are asking that you read a novel or two. One novel is a required read for all 7th grade Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega ELA **and** SS students; an additional book is required for Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega ELA **only**. In May, your campus library will host a pre-sale of these books so that you can purchase them before you leave school for summer vacation. During the summer, the titles will also be easily accessible either for purchase at our local bookstores or to borrow from our community libraries, so you shouldn’t have a problem obtaining copies.

As you read your book(s), we strongly recommend that you keep a reflective journal or write down important facts over each of the novels. In this packet, we have included some of the characteristics of good readers; these characteristics will help you compose your journal entries or take notes. Please make sure you have finished your reading assignments by the beginning of school. Your teachers will be assessing your reading when you return to classes in the fall, and these assessments will count as major grades for the first 9 weeks.

Of course, we encourage you to read as many other books as you wish. Perhaps you have some titles you have been planning to read over the summer or maybe your friends have suggested some good books. Check the district website for additional reading lists.

Have a wonderful summer and remember – READING IS COOL!

Sincerely,

Felicia Andrews

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7th GRADE REQUIRED SUMMER READING



Social Studies

- 1) Every student enrolled in a 7th grade Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega Social Studies class must read Dark Water Rising!

Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale

Historical Fiction (ISBNs 0805075852 or 978-0805075854)

After moving to Galveston in the summer of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth struggles with decisions that impact his future and learns about survival in the face of a natural disaster.



English Language Arts

- 1) Every student enrolled in a 7th grade Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega ELA class will read two books. Like Social Studies, they must read Dark Water Rising!

Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale

Historical Fiction (ISBNs 0805075852 or 978-0805075854)

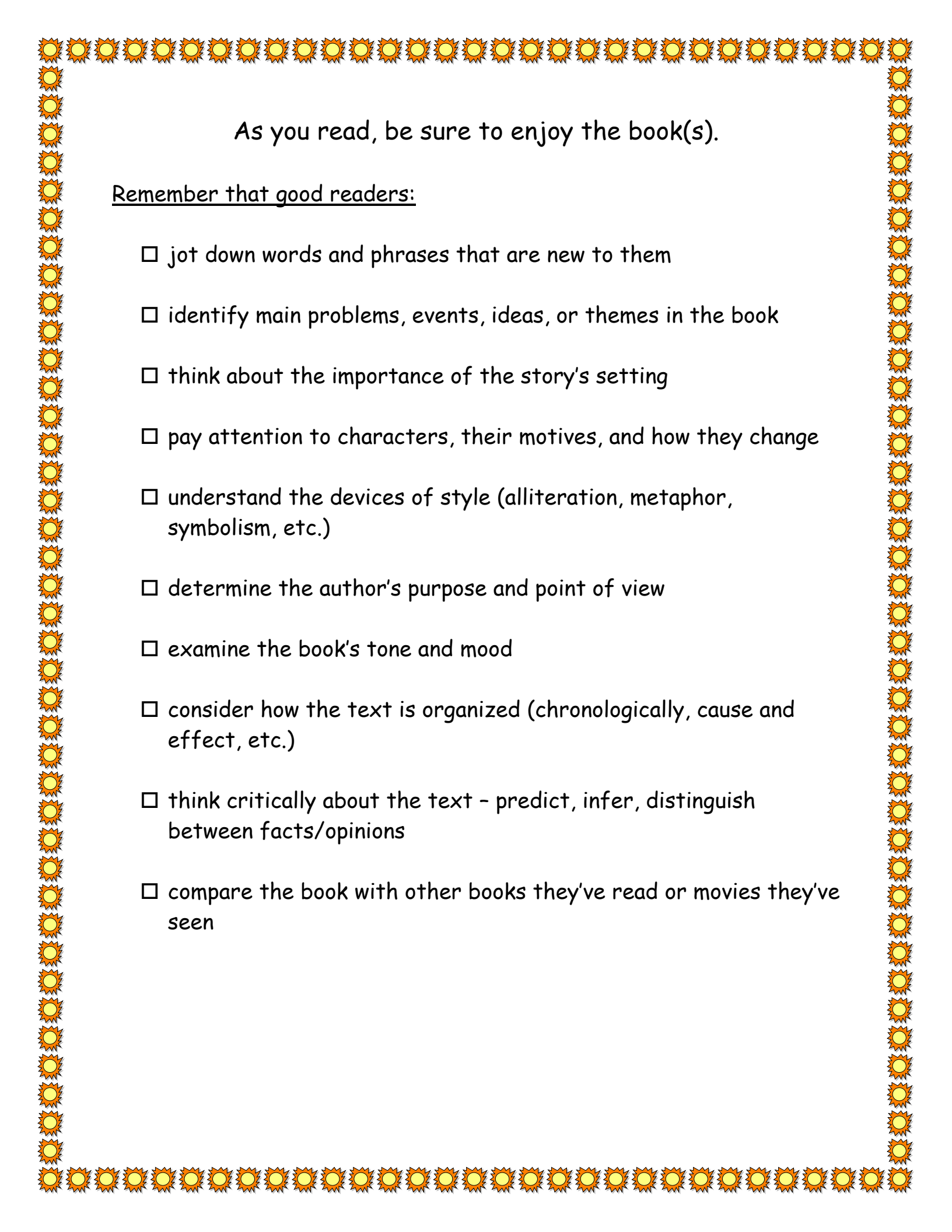
After moving to Galveston in the summer of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth struggles with decisions that impact his future and learns about survival in the face of a natural disaster.

- 2) Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega ELA students must also read the following novel:

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

Realistic Fiction (ISBNs 014038572X or 978-0140385724)

According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.



As you read, be sure to enjoy the book(s).

Remember that good readers:

- jot down words and phrases that are new to them
- identify main problems, events, ideas, or themes in the book
- think about the importance of the story's setting
- pay attention to characters, their motives, and how they change
- understand the devices of style (alliteration, metaphor, symbolism, etc.)
- determine the author's purpose and point of view
- examine the book's tone and mood
- consider how the text is organized (chronologically, cause and effect, etc.)
- think critically about the text - predict, infer, distinguish between facts/opinions
- compare the book with other books they've read or movies they've seen

If you have any questions, please email one of the following 7th Grade Pre-AP / Pre-AP GT Omega teachers at your campus, and he/she will get back to you as soon as possible. Have a wonderful summer!

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