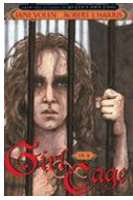


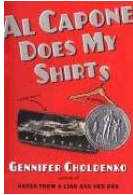
7th Grade Probe Summer Reading

Choose two for projects, but you may want to read them all!



Girl in a Cage by Jane Yolen

One year after William “Braveheart” Wallace was executed; King Edward of England captured the 11-year-old Scottish princess, Marjorie, and put her in a cage in a public square in England. **Girl in a Cage** opens after Marjorie is already imprisoned in her cage. The villagers throw food at her, taunt her, and generally make life harder for her. Sitting in her cold, dirty prison, defying the abusive king, she reminisces about her time as a princess, and learns the true meaning of the word “noble.” This is an excellent choice for those who enjoy historical fiction. This portrays a strong female character.



Al Capone Does my Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

It's the year 1935, and Moose Flanagan has an unusual living situation. His father has just been hired to work at the island prison, Alcatraz, off the coast of San Francisco, and the family moves to live on the island with the prison! To make matters worse, his sister is autistic, and Moose has to try to keep her out of the way and out of trouble so that they can continue living there. Then he makes friends with the warden's daughter, Piper, who has a knack for getting Moose caught up in her schemes. Can Moose figure out how to fit in at school, at home, and on the island?



Code Orange by Caroline Cooney

Mitty is a slacker. He always wants to do things the easy way, so when he goes to do research for a school project on smallpox, he chooses a century-old book because it is closest. Inside the book, he touches what may be a sample of the disease. Has he just reintroduced a life-threatening illness to the world? Is he infecting everyone he talks to? Should he tell anyone, or will telling make him look like a dork? Fast-paced and exciting, this is a good choice for those who enjoy thrillers.



Night of the Howling Dogs by Graham Salisbury

When a Boy Scout troop from Hilo, Hawaii, sets out for a camping trip on the beach under a volcano, they are expecting a few peaceful days in a remote paradise. Dylan's biggest worry is that tough Louie has come along on the trip and might make things difficult. Unfortunately, the problems are much bigger than that: an earthquake shakes the lava flow on the cliff above them and dislodges some boulders which nearly crush them. Then, while the boys are trying to recover, a tsunami hits. Based on the true story of the author's cousin and his troop, this is a night you'll never forget!



Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Matt Cruse lives in a past that never happened for us: in his world airplanes have never been invented, so he works as a cabin boy onboard a trans-oceanic blimp, the *Aurora*. When the ship is attacked by pirates, he and heiress Kate de Vries must try to escape and get help on an uncharted island. This is a rollicking pirate adventure set in a Jules Verne world. Fans of *The Lightning Thief* or *Gregor the Overlander* will really enjoy this one!



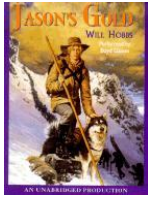
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Mah

Wu Mei ought to have a pretty good life—her father is rich, after all. But when he remarries, her stepmother doesn't want anything good for his children, only hers. So Wu Mei and her siblings are treated terribly in the midst of opulence. When Wu Mei begins to have too much success at school, she is yanked out and sent to a convent school to be forgotten. Set during the Cultural Revolution in China, *Chinese Cinderella* is an unbelievable, yet true, story of a difficult childhood.



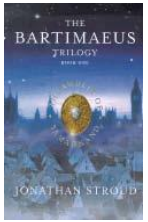
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

It's 1918, and 16-year-old orphan Hattie has just inherited a homestead in Montana. She has only a year to fence and cultivate her 320 acres—all by herself! A Newbery Honor winner, *Hattie Big Sky* will captivate anyone who is interested in the settlement of our country, or interested in the story of girl who must succeed against long odds.



Jason's Gold by Will Hobbs

Written by Will Hobbs, who will come speak to all Hull students in the fall of 2008, this book tells the story of Jason, a 15-year-old who heads into the Alaskan wilderness all alone. When Jason's brothers run off to participate in the Alaska Gold Rush in the 1890's, Jason decides to catch up with them, not knowing how difficult that task truly is. Fans of Gary Paulsen will love Will Hobbs!



The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud

Set in an alternate London, where bureaucratic magicians run the government, the first book in the Bartimaeus trilogy is a dark, sarcastic read. Magician's apprentice Nathaniel secretly summons the djinni Bartimaeus to help him wreak revenge on an older rival. Of course, things don't go perfectly, and Bartimaeus refuses to allow Nathaniel total control. Don't forget to read the footnotes, or you'll miss some of the djinni's always-amusing (usually snarky) opinions! Save some time this summer, because if you read this one, you will want to read its two sequels!

Date due: Friday, August 13, 2010 (Handed out May 2010)

Dear Rising 7th Grade PROBE Students: Welcome to 7th Grade PROBE.

We are requiring that you read a minimum of two books this summer. For one book you will create a large bookmark which will include a poem; for the other you will write an essay. Both need to be completed to the best of your ability. These will be some of your first grades in Gifted 7th Grade LA. This gives you a chance to work on the writing skills you developed in 6th grade and to also demonstrate your creative side. Have fun with this! Enjoy the reading. And whatever you do, do NOT procrastinate. This should be completed over the entire summer... This will keep you sharp!

A. **BOOK MARK** for one book of choice from the list. Spelling and mechanics – perfect!

The following are required and will be part of the grade.

1. **Size** –10 inches wide by 20 inches in length
2. **Book Information** - Include the title of the book and the author's name.
3. **Student name** - placed neatly in bottom right hand corner on front of bookmark
4. **Design** - The bookmark must be designed to reflect the novel's story and theme.
5. **Border** - Edge your bookmark with a relevant border that is unique to the novel.
6. **Poem** - Write a poem as your personal *response* to the novel.
 - a. **Type Poem** (Size 12) Place it as the *focal* point of your bookmark.
 - b. **Poem Requirements** - Minimum of 16 - 20 lines. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE...RESPOND!**
7. **ART** - It is expected that this bookmark be a work of art - *colorful and creative!*
8. **Original Artwork** - Must be drawn on paper, matted, and then carefully glued onto the bookmark.

Do not draw directly on the board.
9. **NO COMPUTER ART Allowed** - It must be totally created by you using mediums other than the computer.
10. **The entire bookmark needs to be covered with relevant art that reflects the novel.**
11. **EVERYTHING MUST RELATE TO THE NOVEL.**
12. **You may include 3-D art work, but it must be secured.**

B. **ESSAY** for a second book of choice. This is **one** essay and will need transition sentences to link paragraphs.

1. **Paragraph One:** Introduce essay by explaining the significance of the title. Authors do not choose titles randomly. Usually there is an important reason and the title is symbolic.
2. **Paragraph Two:** Give a *brief* summary of the book. Include author, title, setting, and main highlights.
3. **Paragraph Three:** A good novel should contain a character that possesses true greatness in spite of weakness. Select one character from your novel. Explain your definition of "true greatness" and then give two reasons which prove that, in spite of weaknesses (name them), he or she possesses true greatness. Use a quote to prove your point! ☺
4. **Paragraph Four:** Cite a passage from the novel that is an example of great writing and that is inspirational to you. Explain why this is great writing and why the passage moved you. ***It must be at least a paragraph in length –no one liners***
5. **Paragraph Five:** A good novel should ultimately inspire the reader. Conclude your essay by explaining why this book is or is not an inspiration to you. Include supporting details from the novel.

In your essay do **NOT** use the words YOU, YOUR, YOURS...UNLESS contained within a quote directly from the book. Do not use *contractions* and do not use "I think," "I feel," or "I believe" in your essay.

Essay must be typed in 12 point Times New Roman using MLA format. See attached directions.

Student First and Last Name

Humphreys or Kosa

PROBE LA 3 4 7 OR 8

13 August 2010

Title

Your essay should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman and follow standard MLA format. All margins are set at 1 inch. Create a header for your last name and page number (right justified). Then type your name on the first line, your teachers name on the second line, the course name and class period on the third line, and the date (in military time) on the fourth line. The title should be centered. When you begin your essay, use the tab button to indent your paragraph. Everything should be set to double space and should look like this example. As you continue your essay, each new page should have your last name and page number in the header. Practicing the MLA format will get you ready for high school and beyond. All written assignments should be completed in this format unless your teacher instructs you differently. Every essay that is typed should include a bibliography page citing the sources used in MLA format. Check below to cite a novel correctly.

Bibliography

Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher Name, Year Of Publication. Print. (Notice the indent on the second line if necessary)

Actual example:

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. New York: Barnes and Noble Classics, 2003. Print.

Note: 1. Underlining is NO longer recommended to represent italics. Use italics instead.

2. Within the list of works cited, all entries must be identified by medium: Print, Web, DVD, CD-ROM, PDF file, and so on. List the appropriate medium(s) at the end of each entry. In the case of a Web source, the date of access follows the word "Web."

3. Online sources no longer require a URL listing. (Unless the writer judges that a reader will be unable to locate the source.)

4. All journal entries should list both volume and issue number.