

## **The Wednesday Wars Summer Reading Assignment**

Ms. Letts, ELA, Grade 6

Required Reading: *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt

Due: August 8, 2018

About the Required Reading: This Newbery award winning novel written by Gary D. Schmidt tells a witty and compelling story about a seventh grader, Holling Hoodhood. The novel captures his mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year in Long Island, New York.

The Assignment: The summer reading project consists of two parts, a journal and a project. The journal allows students to reflect on the novel as a whole. Students will create a journal based on the novel, which will include ten designated journal entries. The project allows students to explore the novel through a more creative lens.

Materials needed: *The Wednesday Wars*, journal, materials for project

### Part I: The Journal

Over the course of the summer, students will write journal entries based on the provided prompts that relate to the novel. Students are required to decorate the cover of their journals (10 points) based on the novel. Journal entries will either be personal or a reflection of the novels themes and characterization. Journal entries can be typed, written in a composition notebook, or written on notebook paper and combined into a folder (preferably with brads).

Each journal entry will be: • A reflective experience • 10-20 minutes of writing • Evaluated on ideas, grammar, and thoughtful completion • At least ten sentences • Worth 10 points each (Total of 10=100 points) • Written from a prompt provided by the teacher. The journal entries will be written from prompts provided. Students must include the writing prompts in their journals. Students are expected to write 10-20 minutes, depending on the writing prompt.

### Journal Entry #1

September Writing Prompt: Are Mr. Hoodhood's motives centered on Holling, or himself? How can you tell? (Hint: Describe Mr. Hoodhood's actions)

### Journal Entry #2

October Writing Prompt: Have you read or seen any Shakespeare plays (or movies)? If so, what did you think of them? Holling did not know what to expect about Shakespeare. Have you ever had an assignment that you expected to dislike but found enjoyable instead?

### Journal Entry #3

November Writing Prompt: Like Caliban in the Tempest, Holling says that monsters have to be defeated before you can have a happy ending. Do you agree with him? Does this always happen in real life? Give at least two examples.

### Journal Entry #4

December Writing Prompt: What does this tell you about the type of person each character is? (Respond with at least 4-5 sentences for each character) a) Mr. Hoodhood in forgetting to drive Holling to the store. b) Danny Hupfer returning the signed baseball. c) Mrs. Bigio's remarks to Mai Tai d) Mrs. Baker arranging for the 3 boys to meet Joe Pepetone and Horace Clark.

### Journal Entry #5

January Writing Prompt: The chapter begins and ends with Holling walking down the hallway and everyone smiling at him. How are the two situations the same? How are they different?

### Journal Entry #6

February Writing Prompt: What is your opinion of Mr. Kowalski's actions regarding the architectural design for the new school? Describe an instance where you have gone back and changed something because you felt that you did not do the right thing the first time around.

### Journal Entry #7

March Writing Prompt: We know that Mrs. Bigio's attitude towards Mai Tai changed after being teased by the other students. Why do you think this was? How can being teased affect someone?

### Journal Entry #8

April Writing Prompt: The novel takes place in 1967=68. Mr. Hoodhood said Heather was not going to college. What were his reasons? Do you believe he was right or wrong? Do people still have this attitude today?

### Journal Entry #9

May Writing Prompt: Why didn't Holling's mother go with him to pick up his sister? What do you think of her actions?

### Journal Entry #10

Writing Prompt: What did the students take to the airport when Lt. Baker was arriving? Why do you think they went? Have you ever gone to the airport to welcome someone? If so, who? Did your presence make a difference?

## Part II: The Project

Choose **ONE** of the five activities below to complete over summer break.

1. **RATS:** Create an informational brochure about rats! Include information either about wild rats or pet rats (or both). Include different types of rats, physical descriptions, diets, habitats, breeding, young, and other interesting facts. You may make this by hand or design it on a computer. Add unique fonts, photographs, and other illustrations to make your brochure colorful and engaging. The cover should be particularly eye catching! This will be due as a hard copy (printed, not emailed).
2. **FAVORITE:** What is your favorite sport or hobby? Type a short essay about your favorite sport/hobby, explaining why you enjoy it, how to play, and any other details you'd like to include. Also, create a collage on sturdy construction/poster paper (at least 8.5 x 11 inches). Include the written response somewhere within the collage images.

3. HERO: Who is a hero to you? Why? What makes someone a hero in your opinion? Why? Type a short essay to answer both of these questions. Include a photo of your hero at the bottom of your written response, if you have one.
4. FLOORPLAN: Create a floor plan design for your “Dream School Building.” You may use a computer or graph paper for the design. A separate sheet of paper should be used for different levels of the building, if your building includes more than one floor. Include the names of each room. Be as specific and creative as possible! This is your dream school! What would you like for your school to have? This will be due as a hard copy (printed, not emailed).
5. MENU: Create a menu of Vietnamese dishes. Do some research if you need to, and keep the Vietnamese culture in mind. Your menu should include a breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, and drink item. A photo/clip art/illustration, along with a brief description, should accompany each item on your menu. You may make this by hand or design it on a computer. Your menu must be at least two pages, including a colorful cover page with a unique restaurant name. This will be due as a hard copy (printed, not emailed).

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**PARTS 1 & 2 ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL,  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018. PRESENTATIONS WILL  
TAKE PLACE DURING OUR FIRST WEEK TOGETHER. DO  
NOT BE LATE TURNING IN YOUR FIRST MAJOR GRADE  
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL!**

Questions? Email me! [aletts@theglobeacademy.net](mailto:aletts@theglobeacademy.net)