7th Grade Summer Reading Project

1. **Read the following novel:***The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
2. **Keep a dialectical journal as you read and annotate (text mark) key passages from your novel. Focus on passages that are essential to the conflict (problems or issues the characters in the novel face) and theme (the moral message or lesson the book teaches the reader.)**

* You must have **5 passages** from your novel (about a paragraph in length) that relate to your novel’s **conflict(s)** and a response to each of the passages (also about a paragraph in length.)
* You must have **5 passages** from your novel (about a paragraph in length) that relate to your novel’s **theme(s)** and a response to each of the passages (also about a paragraph in length.)

Sample of a dialectical journal entry from *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Passage from text | Page number | Comments and questions |
| “The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a predilection unforgivable in Maycomb...” | Page 9 | It seems that the town is a little closed minded in viewing the Radleys since they don’t go to church or do other things common in Maycomb. This seems to be a prejudice against their lifestyle since it seems that the town might not really know them and has become pretty superstitious about them. People often get suspicious about what they don’t understand or what seems strange to them. |

This project will be due within the first few days of your return to school!

**Responding to the text:**

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed.

Here are some tips:

* Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
* Give your personal reactions to the passage
* Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
* Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
* Write about what it makes you think or feel
* Agree or disagree with a character or the author

Sample Sentence Starters:

* I really don’t understand this because…
* I really dislike/like this idea because…
* I think the author is trying to say that…
* This passage reminds me of a time in my life when…
* If I were (name of character) at this point I would…
* This part doesn’t make sense because…
* This character reminds me of (name of person) because…

Higher Level Responses:

* Make connections between different characters or events in the text
* Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc…)
* Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
* Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
* Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole