

TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mandatory Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 3

Instructions: Students must read one of the books from the list below and complete one of the projects. Projects are due no later than September 9, 2016.

Third Grade Angels-Jerry Spinelli

George, aka "Suds," has just entered third grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded "the halo" — which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be the first to earn the halo, but he's finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated. Does he have to be good even outside of school? (Does he have to be nice to his annoying little sister?) And if Mrs. Simms doesn't actually see him doing a good deed, does it even count?

Amber Brown is not a Crayon-Paula Danziger

Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They sit next to each other in school, help each other with fractions and spelling, and always stick up for one another. But when Justin finds out that he is moving away, everything begins to change.

The Chalk Box Kid-Clyde Robert Bulla

When nine-year-old Gregory experiences several upsets in his life, he responds by creating a fantastic chalk garden on the charred walls of a burned-out factory behind his house. As his garden grows and flourishes, Gregory finds a voice through his art and, for the first time, is able to find his own place in the world. The Chalk Box Kid is sure to delight a new generation of children and their parents.

Gloria Rising-Ann Cameron

Gloria is thrilled when she goes to the store to buy an onion and meets Dr. Grace Street, an astronaut. It's there that Dr. Street tells Gloria to have confidence in herself and that the big things aren't always as big as they seem. But Gloria doesn't really understand Dr. Street's advice. Right now her problem seems gigantic. It's the beginning of fourth grade and Gloria can't do anything to please her teacher Mrs. Yardley. When Gloria writes a report about meeting Dr. Street, Mrs. Yardley doesn't believe her. Gloria knows she's telling the truth. How can she prove it?

Mercy Watson to the Rescue-Kate DiCamillo

To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mercy is not just a pig — she's a porcine wonder. And to the good-natured Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention that buttery-toasty feeling she gets when she snuggles into bed with them. This is not, however, so good for the Watsons' bed.*BOOM! CRACK!*

Summer Reading Project Choices

1. Interview a character from the novel. Create interview questions. Title it, "My Interview with ..." (Minimum of 6 questions).
2. Create a book cover for the novel.
3. Create a Venn diagram comparing/contrasting two characters from the book.
4. Create a comic strip explaining the basic plot of the book. You must create at least five pictures and include dialogue in each one.
5. Write a book review.
6. Give a "book talk" about the book. Follow the same guidelines for the book review.
7. Complete the study guide for the book you have chosen to read.
8. Summarize each chapter of the book. One paragraph per chapter, 3-5 sentences per chapter.
9. Continue the book by writing an extra chapter for it.

Book Cover Guidelines

Use these guidelines to help you complete summer reading activity # 2: Create a book cover for the novel.

- Include the title and author of the book.
- Include a saying of some kind that gives a hint of what the book might be about.
- Two quotes from literary critics or from your friends or family explaining why they think the book is worthwhile reading. You may have to research this or just simply get the quotes from people you know. Example: "Great book, I could not put it down!" Jimmy Smith, Linden Book Review. (Please do not use the example in your project).
- Artwork/drawing that describes what the book is about. For example, a picture from a key scene from the book. You do not have to be a terrific artist. Try your best.
- **Everything should be spelled correctly**

Book Review

(Complete All Three Pages)

Use these guidelines to help you complete summer reading activity # 5: Create a book cover for the novel. You may use the same guidelines if you are choosing activity # 6.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Main Characters: _____

Setting: _____

Reviewer's Opinions

Did the characters seem real? Pick one of them and write whether you liked him/her or disliked him/her. Cite examples from the book to support your opinion.

What was the most interesting part of the book? Why?

Give Five Reasons Why You Would or Would Not Recommend This Book:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

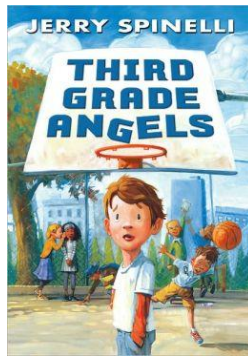
5. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

Third Grade Angels

by Jerry Spinelli



Summary

George, aka "Suds," has just entered third grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded "the halo" — which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be the first to earn the halo, but he's finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated. Does he have to be good even outside of school? (Does he have to be nice to his annoying little sister?) And if Mrs. Simms doesn't actually see him doing a good deed, does it even count?

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Remember that all sentences begin with a capital letter and have end punctuation. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day..

1. What was George (better known as "Suds") doing on the first day of third grade that he had never done before?

2. What does "Suds" do when he feels "Chipmunky"?

3. What happened during recess on the second day of school that made Mrs. Simms call the students, “disgraceful”?

4. What nice thing did “Suds” do when choosing sides for basketball during recess?

5. What did “Suds’s” mom say that made him start acting nicer at home?

6. Who was the boy who spit and then said, “I’m tired of being good”?

7. What “Slam Dunk” good deed did “Suds” do in Chapter 14, and what does he do to make sure Mrs. Simms finds out about it?

8. Who was awarded the first halo?

9. While “Suds” was crying and calling himself a “bad loser”, who shows up at his door?

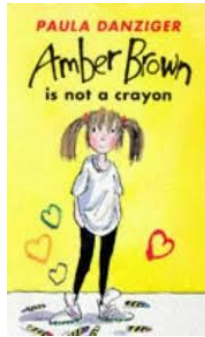
10. Why did Mrs. Simms award the halo to a person who didn’t appear to be trying to earn it?

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

Amber Brown is not a Crayon

Paula Danziger



Summary

Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They sit next to each other in school, help each other with fractions and spelling, and always stick up for one another. But when Justin finds out that he is moving away, everything begins to change.

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Remember that all sentences begin with a capital letter and have end punctuation. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What trip is Amber's class taking, and according to Mr. Cohen, why must he always be the pilot?

2. What does Justin's fortune cookie say?

3. Why do you think Amber tells Mrs. Bradley that there are alligators in the toilet?

4. Why did Amber and Justin stop hopping when they reached Justin's house?

5. Why does Amber try to think of something good about Justin leaving?

6. Where is Justin's family moving?

7. What does Justin choose to throw out that really upsets Amber?

8. What happens to Amber after she tells her mother that she hates Justin?

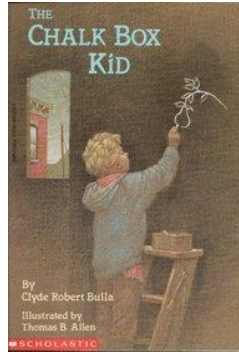
9. What does Amber say that gets them to start speaking to each other again?

10. What present does Justin give to Amber?

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

The Chalk Box Kid



Summary

When nine-year-old Gregory experiences several upsets in his life, he responds by creating a fantastic chalk garden on the charred walls of a burned-out factory behind his house. As his garden grows and flourishes, Gregory finds a voice through his art and, for the first time, is able to find his own place in the world. The Chalk Box Kid is sure to delight a new generation of children and their parents.

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Remember that all sentences begin with a capital letter and have end punctuation. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What was the special gift Gregory received on his birthday?

2. What nickname did Uncle Max call Gregory?

3. What happened to the pictures Gregory had put on his bedroom walls?

4. What is the name of the special person Gregory met in art class?

5. What was the prize Ivy received for winning the art contest?

6. What did Gregory say when asked if he wanted some plants?

7. Why was Gregory worried when he heard it rain during the night?

8. When the kids from room 3 left Gregory's garden, who was the last one to leave?

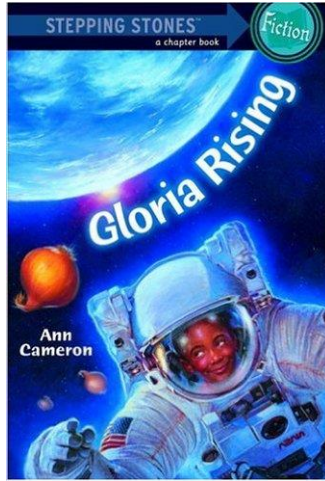
9. Why did Ivy think the paints should be given to Gregory?

10. What did Mr. Hiller do with the picture he took of Gregory's garden?

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

Gloria Rising Ann Cameron



Summary

Gloria is thrilled when she goes to the store to buy an onion and meets Dr. Grace Street, an astronaut. It's there that Dr. Street tells Gloria to have confidence in herself and that the big things aren't always as big as they seem. But Gloria doesn't really understand Dr. Street's advice. Right now her problem seems gigantic. It's the beginning of fourth grade and Gloria can't do anything to please her teacher Mrs. Yardley. When Gloria writes a report about meeting Dr. Street, Mrs. Yardley doesn't believe her. Gloria knows she's telling the truth. How can she prove it?

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Remember that all sentences begin with a capital letter and have end punctuation. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. Who did Gloria meet in the checkout line at the supermarket?

2. Why didn't Gloria want her mom to chop the onion?

3. What is Mrs. Priscilla Yardley's nickname?

4. Why did Gloria tell Ms. Morgan that she wished that she failed last year?

5. Whom did the kids think stuck the pencils in the ceiling?

6. What did Mrs. Yardley want Gloria to prove that she met Dr. Street, the astronaut?

7. Who was the special guest that came to visit Gloria's class?

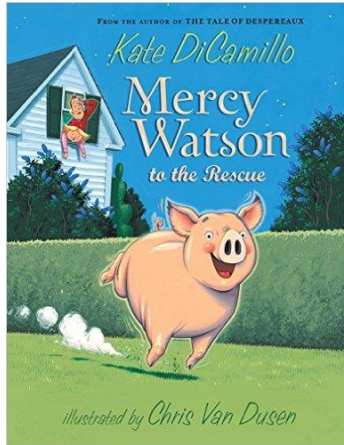
8. What did Dr. Street tell the kids to do after Billy apologized to them?

9. What name did Gloria and Julian give to the enormous pine tree?

10. What did Mrs. Yardley tell her class at the end of the story?

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE



Summary

To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mercy is not just a pig — she’s a porcine wonder. And to the good-natured Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention that buttery-toasty feeling she gets when she snuggles into bed with them. This is not, however, so good for the Watsons’ bed. *BOOM! CRACK!*

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Remember that all sentences begin with a capital letter and have end punctuation. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. How did Mr. and Mrs. Watson get Mercy to fall asleep?

2. Since they were so busy sleeping and dreaming, what did Mr. and Mrs. Watson and Mercy *not* hear?

3. What happened to the bed?

4. Mr. and Mrs. Watson thought Mercy was going to find help, but where was she really going?

5. Who lives next door to the Watsons?

6. Why did Eugenia say that Mercy has no feelings?

7. What were the names of the two firemen?

8. The Watsons did not refer to Mercy as a pig. What did they prefer to call her instead?

9. What did the Watsons have for breakfast (along with the firemen, Baby, and Eugenia)?

10. What did Mercy do at the very end of the story?
