

Summer Reading Requirement
Grade 7 SAIL Team English/Language Arts

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

- Obtain copies of the two novels listed above. You may buy your own copy, borrow one from friends or the public library, etc. I will be contacting Barnes and Nobles and Books-a-Million in Beaumont to let them know of this requirement. The books can also be purchased online, from amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and others. Note: We have read The Outsiders in the SAIL team for the past several years so you may want to call around to former SAIL students and see if one of them has a copy you can borrow.
- **Read both books** by the beginning of school in the fall.
- As you read, **take notes** in the margins of your book **over the characters and major events**. This is especially important if you read the books early in the summer. This will make reviewing for your tests much easier. If you don't own the book, use post-it notes or write them out on notebook paper or in a composition book.
- Be ready for **comprehensive tests** over both books during the first week of school.
- Do the following **written assignments** and have them ready to **turn it in on the first day of school**.

Instructions for written assignments

- You will **do the assignment twice, once for each book**. Write the title of the book as the title of your paper.
- Choose any **one question** to answer from **each section**, for a total of **five questions**.
- For each question, write the number as it appears below. (Examples: P1, Sty3, etc.)
- Answer fully and accurately, and in **complete sentences**.
- **Each answer must contain at least 20 words**.
- Use notebook paper or typing paper, if you type. **Your paper should be in good shape, with no smudges, tears, or wrinkles**.
- Write neatly and legibly. You may type your papers if you choose. If you type, use 1-inch margins and 12-point font. No fancy, hard-to-read fonts, please.

Questions for written assignments. Choose one from each section.

PLOT

- P1. How does the author let you know where the story happens? When did you first begin to learn about the setting? Give examples of changing settings.
- P2. Describe what you believe to be one of the most important scenes in the story.
- P3. What questions did you have while reading? Were the questions answered by the end?
- P4. Did the author give you any clues to the outcome?

STYLE

- Sty1. Copy a passage from the book where the author has done a great job of description. What makes this passage good? How does it help the story?
- Sty2. Copy examples of similes and metaphors that you think are good.
- Sty3. How does the author create suspense or at least make you curious about what will happen next?

Characterization

- C1. Copy a passage in which the author **shows** you a character's personality. Then find one in which the author **tells** you about a character's personality.
- C2. Copy a passage of dialogue that tells you something important about a character. Explain why it is important.
- C3. In what ways do the characters change in the book? How does the author help you to notice these changes?
- C4. After reading the story, which character do you feel you know best? How did the author help you to know so much about this character?

Structure

- Str1. Why do you suppose the author began the story this way?
- Str2. Who tells the story? Why do you think the author chose this point of view?
- Str3. Can you think of a reason for ending a certain chapter in a certain place? What do you expect will happen next? What clues does the author give you?
- Str4. How does the author organize the story? Do you think this structure works well?
- Str5. Can you find an example of foreshadowing?

Reflection

- R1. Explain the title of the book. What other title would be more appropriate?
- R2. What were your thoughts and feelings at the end of the book?
- R3. Why do you think the author chose this ending?
- R4. What might the author have wanted us to learn?
- R5. If you could meet the author, what questions would you ask?
- R6. Research the author's life online or using another source. Using the information you learn about the author's life, find parts of the story that may have been influenced by the author's own experience.
- R7. What important symbols did the author include in the story? What do you think they represent?
- R8. Would this book make a good movie? Why or why not? What parts would you leave out? What problems might a director encounter trying to translate the writer's words onto the movie screen?
- R9. If you watched a movie over the book, did you think it was good? What parts were left out? Were parts included that were not in the book? Were the characters in the movie the way you imagined them to be from the book? What problems do you think the director might have encountered trying to translate the writer's words onto the movie screen?

SAIL ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 7 Pre-Advanced Placement

Congratulations on your enrollment in SAIL English/Language Arts 7 for the 2010-2011 school year. This is a Pre-Advanced Placement class.

At the high school level, Advanced Placement (AP) classes serve two purposes: 1) to prepare high school students for college-level work, and 2) to allow students the opportunity to receive college credit upon successfully completing an exam.

At the junior high level, Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) classes give students the opportunities to practice (at the appropriate level) skills that will enable them to be successful in AP classes required by the AP program. Pre-AP classes lay the groundwork and foundation for success, not only in the AP program at the high school level, but also ultimately in college course-work itself.

Successful Pre-AP students are typically task-oriented, proficient readers who are able to set priorities with regard to time and responsibilities. Parental support also plays a key role in the success of these students.

Summer reading is required and must be completed by the first day of the new school year. A complete description of the summer reading project is attached.