

Welcome to the 6th grade!

I am looking forward to an exciting school year where together we will talk about books and share our writing. In preparation, you will read two novels this summer. One is required and the other will be your choice from the attached list. Summer reading has two purposes. The first keeps students in the "brain game" or academic mode and the second is adventure. Reading is an adventure and it is my hope that students will enjoy the adventure of reading. You will complete a project for the required novel. When all students return to school, a second project on the self - selected novel will be completed.

REQUIRED NOVEL

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS - *Number the Stars*

After reading *Number the Stars*, you will complete a story quilt. The quilt will depict important symbols from the novel. Create the quilt on a standard size piece of white construction paper. Feel free to use markers or wrapping paper to make the quilt colorful. DO NOT USE POSTER BOARD. Please write your first and last name on the back of the quilt. Use your best writing, spelling and remember the rules of grammar. It is NEVER acceptable to use another person's work and claim it as your own. Do your own work! I am not asking for perfection just your best effort. Project instructions are included and the due date for this project is **Thursday, August 20, 2009**. Students will need to bring a copy of the novel, *Number the Stars* to school during the first grading period of the school year.

SELF - SELECTED NOVEL

This novel must come from the attached 2009 Texas Lone Star Reading List. Your parents and you should talk together to determine which book is the best choice for you. The attached list is diverse and is intended to encourage and support recreational reading for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. If you would like to preview the list online, please go to the following website: www.txla.org. Find the reading list link and follow the prompt to see the 2009 Lone Star reading list with annotations. The

prompt to see the 2009 Lone Star reading list with annotations. The annotations will allow you, the reader to decide if a particular book fits your interests.

Although the project for the self -selected novel will not be assigned until school starts, it is important to know the following information:

Book title and the author

Main character

Setting

Main problem or conflict

Students will need to bring a copy of their self - selected novel to school during the first grading period of the school year.

If you are unsure of any part of the summer reading assignment, please email me at mburkhol@providencehs.net. I check my school email frequently during the summer, so I will be happy to answer questions if the need arises.

Happy reading!

Margo Burkholder

Mrs. Margo Burkholder



Name: _____

Date: _____

Historical Fiction

Story Quilt

Can you think of any objects that have special meaning to you? Do they remind you of a person or an important event? Now, think about the historical fiction book that you read. Were there any significant objects in the story? In literature, these objects are called symbols. They are symbolic of something important. For this project, you'll make a quilt that shows four symbols from the book.

DUE DATES

Book approved

Book finished

Project finished

MATERIALS

large square sheet of white construction paper, ruler, markers or colored pencils, scissors, wrapping paper (optional)

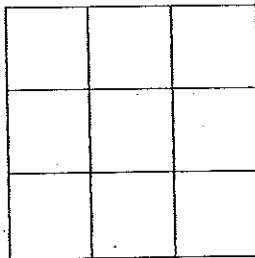
DIRECTIONS

- 1 Find a book of historical fiction that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: Number The Stars

Author: Lois Lowry

- 2 Measure and draw light pencil lines to divide the white paper square into thirds across and lengthwise. This will create nine equal squares for your paper quilt.



- 3 Look through your book to help you remember objects that were important to the story. These objects should represent something significant, like a person or an event. List at least six of them below.

4 Circle four objects from the list that you would like to include on your quilt. Sketch each object in a box below.

5 Write a few sentences explaining why each object is important. What does it symbolize or represent? Revise your sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

6 Locate the four squares in the corners of the quilt. Draw one object in each square. Leave room in the same square to copy your sentences about the object. It is a good idea to draw and write in pencil first and then trace over it with pen or thin marker.

7 Write the title and author of the book in the center square.

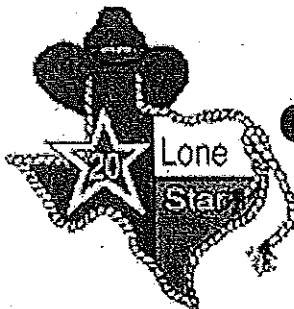
8 Cut the wrapping paper into squares that are the same size as those on the quilt. Glue a wrapping paper square in each of the blank squares. (If wrapping paper is not available, cut squares of colored paper and draw simple patterns or designs on them. Glue these in the blank squares.)

2009 Texas Lone Star Reading List

- Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound*. Feiwel and Friends, 2008.
- Brande, Robin. *Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature*. Knopf, 2007.
- Colfer, Eoin. *Airman*. Hyperion, 2008.
- Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic, 2008.
- Connor, Leslie. *Waiting for Normal*. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, 2008.
- Deuker, Carl. *Gym Candy*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.
- Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*. David Fickling Books/Random House, 2008.
- Freitas, Donna. *The Possibilities of Sainthood*. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008.
- Frost, Helen. *Diamond Willow*. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008.
- Gardner, Sally. *The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution*. Dial, 2008.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found (The Missing, Book One)*. Simon & Schuster, 2008.
- Herlong, M.H. *The Great Wide Sea*. Viking, 2008.
- Higgins, F.E. *The Black Book of Secrets*. Feiwel and Friends, 2007.
- Meehl, Brian. *Suck It Up*. Delacorte, 2008.
- Pearson, Mary E. *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*. Henry Holt, 2008.
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *the dead and the gone*. Harcourt, 2008.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Antsy Does Time*. Dutton, 2008.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. Simon & Schuster, 2007.
- Smith, Roland. *I, Q.: Independence Hall*. Sleeping Bear, 2008.
- Ziegler, Jennifer. *How Not to be Popular*. Delacorte, 2008.

The Texas Lone Star list is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table. The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source.

The annotated 2009 Lone Star Reading list and the past Lone Star Reading Lists are located at: <http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/lonestarlists.html>



**Celebrating 20 Years
of Lone Star**

