



## Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School

14741 Wallace St, IL 60426  
Phone: (708) 333-6390

### *Summer 2010*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings! In order to continue positive experiences in reading, Brooks Middle School has designed a Summer Reading Program. Research shows that children who read during the summer perform better when school resumes in the fall. Therefore, with your continued support we can achieve the ultimate goal, our children's successful future.

### *Did you know???*

Research has consistently shown that students who do not read over the summer experience what is called "summer learning loss." Of greater concern is the fact that this loss has a cumulative effect, "creating a wider gap each year between more proficient and less proficient students."  
(<http://www.reading.org/General/Publications/ReadingToday/RTY-0804-summer.aspx>).

- All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer. (White, 1906; Entwisle & Alexander, 1992; Cooper et al., 1996; Downey et al., 2004).
- Low-income students lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains (Cooper et al., 1996).
- About two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college (Alexander et al., 2007).

### *How does summer reading help?*

Reading is the foundation of all learning. A child who can read well is more likely to be successful in school and in life.

The summer months provide a great opportunity for children to spend time with books and to work on improving reading skills. For children who have difficulty reading, it is especially important to practice reading over the summer so that skills learned during the school year are maintained.



*How can a parent, teacher, or other older adult figure out whether a child understands what he or she is reading?*

There are different methods, but some of the most effective are relatively simple: Ask questions about the story and allow the child to ask questions; summarize or ask the child to summarize; and reread hard-to-understand passages. Essentially, make reading more of an interactive process in order to boost fluency and comprehension. (from <http://www.dinasnotes.com/node/286>)

**READ!**

Choose a book from the approved list (see attached) and an assignment from the Summer Reading Packet, then simply return the assignments to your Reading Teacher in August during the first week of school.

Read 1 book and complete one assignment - Receive 25 Brooks Bucks

Read 2 books and complete two assignments – Reward for Book 1 + 25 additional Brooks Bucks  
Then... the average grade of the two assignments becomes a first quarter Accelerated Reader grade. (Get a jump start on your fall assignments!)

Read 3 books and complete three assignments– Rewards for book 1, book 2 + 50 additional Brooks Bucks, (That's 100 Brooks Bucks total!) *and* an in-school movie/ popcorn treat.

Assignments (Choose ONE for each book):

\* You will find directions and information for these assignments in the attached packet

1. 2 Sided Character Wheel
2. Foldable
3. A GoAnimate.com presentation

Enjoy your summer reading and remember, you are a big part of your child's attitude toward reading as well as his or her reading success!

Harvey Public Library  
15441 Turlington  
Harvey, IL. 60426  
Tel: 708-331-0757  
Fax: 708-331-2835  
T.D.D. 708-331-0767  
Email: [has@harvey.lib.il.us](mailto:has@harvey.lib.il.us)

Hours  
Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8 pm  
Friday & Saturday: 10am – 4pm  
Sunday: Closed

\* Both Harvey and Markham Libraries  
have summer reading programs.

For more information please visit [www.harvey152.org](http://www.harvey152.org)

# 13 Books You Have to Read Before You Turn 13

## 1. *The City of Ember*

- By Jeanne DuPrau

## 2. *Where the Red Fern Grows*

- By Wilson Rawls

## 3. *The Thief Lord*

- By Cornelia Funke

## 4. *Tangerine*

- By Edward Bloor

## 5. *Holes*

- By Louis Sachar

## 6. *The Schwa was Here*

- By Neal Shusterman

## 7. *The Lightning Thief*

- By Rick Riordan

## 8. *The Outsiders*

- By S.E. Hinton

## 9. *The View from Saturday*

- By E.L. Konigsburg

## 10. *The House of the Scorpion*

- By Nancy Farmer

## 11. *The Boy Who Saved Baseball*

- By John H. Ritter

## 12. *Maniac Magee*

- By Jerry Spinelli

## 13. *The Giver*

- By Lois Lowry

# Books to Hook Readers

## Intermediate( grades 4-5)

### 1. *Hatchet*

- By Gary Paulsen

### 2. *The Word Eater*

- By Mary Amato

### 3. *Stone Fox*

- By John Reynolds  
Gardiner

### 4. *The Tarantula in my Purse*

- By Jean Craighead  
George

## Middle School (grades 6-8)

### 5. *My Life in Dog Years*

- By Gray Paulsen

### 6. *Stargirl*

- By Jerry Spinelli

### 7. *The Supernaturalist*

- By Eoin Colfer

### 8. *The Beasties*

- By William Sleator

## High School (grades 9-up)

### 9. *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*

- By Chris Cutcher

### 10. *The First Part Last*

- By Angela Johnson

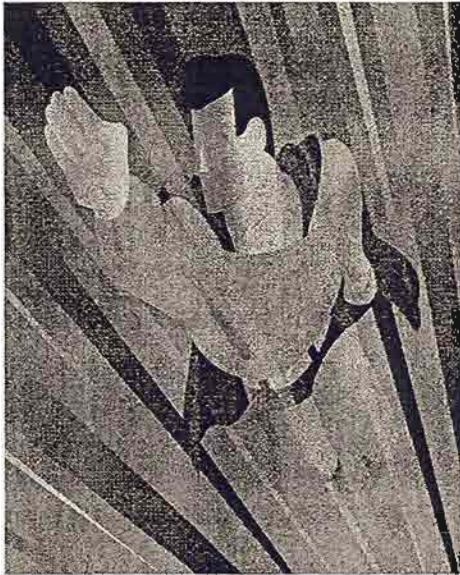
### 11. *Seedfolks*

- By Paul Fleischman

### 12. *Nightjohn*

- By Gary Paulsen

# GoAnimate.com



GoAnimate.com is a free online animation tool that lets you create and share animations, e-Messages and slideshows with your teacher and other **Go! Animate** users.

Use GoAnimate.com to create a video book report for one of your approved books, then in August share it with your Reading Teacher ☺

## How does it work?

GoAnimate.com lets you create animation easily and share it with your friends. You must sign up to use this site. Therefore, you must have your parent or guardian's permission to use this site.

GoAnimate.com is an entertainment website that enables the simple creation of unique computer animated stories, satires and sentiments that can be *shared with the entire online community*. The site offers simple to more advanced innovative features that provide users with a multitude of possibilities for customizing their animations. GoAnimate.com will constantly be enhancing and adding features, popular licenses and animations from well known comedians, animators and writers. Be sure to watch the video tutorial @ <http://goanimate.com/howdoesitwork> to see how to make your own video.

**Q: I am told my animation cannot be published as it has inappropriate content in it. Why is that?**

A: GoAnimate.com wants to make the GoAnimate.com community a place of mutual respect and tolerance. As a result, GoAnimate.com may hide some animations from the community when GoAnimate.com thinks they are inappropriate. If your animation has been hidden, you can remove the inappropriate content and save it again. It will be published as soon as it is reviewed.

\* GoAnimate.com is an internet site that is shared by the entire online community. It is not affiliated or monitored by Harvey School District. Students must have parents permission before using this site.

Chapters to read: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATEGY**

Author's Purpose

FOCUS: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the author's purpose for writing this book? Was there a lesson to be learned? What was the lesson?

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPOND: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapters to read: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATEGY**

Summarizing

FOCUS: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the most important part of the book?
- Why was it so important?

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPOND: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters to read: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATEGY**

Visualizing

FOCUS: \_\_\_\_\_

- How did you picture the main character? Why did you picture him/her this way?

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPOND: \_\_\_\_\_

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If you need more room, continue on a loose leaf sheet of paper.

Chapters to read: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATEGY**

Cause and Effect

FOCUS:

How was the main character affected by the other characters in the story?

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPOND:

Chapters to read: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATEGY**

Evaluate

FOCUS:

What was your favorite part of the book? Why was it your favorite part?

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPOND:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholastic Teaching Resources

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you need more room, continue on a loose leaf sheet of paper.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PER \_\_\_\_\_



# 2 Sided Character Wheel

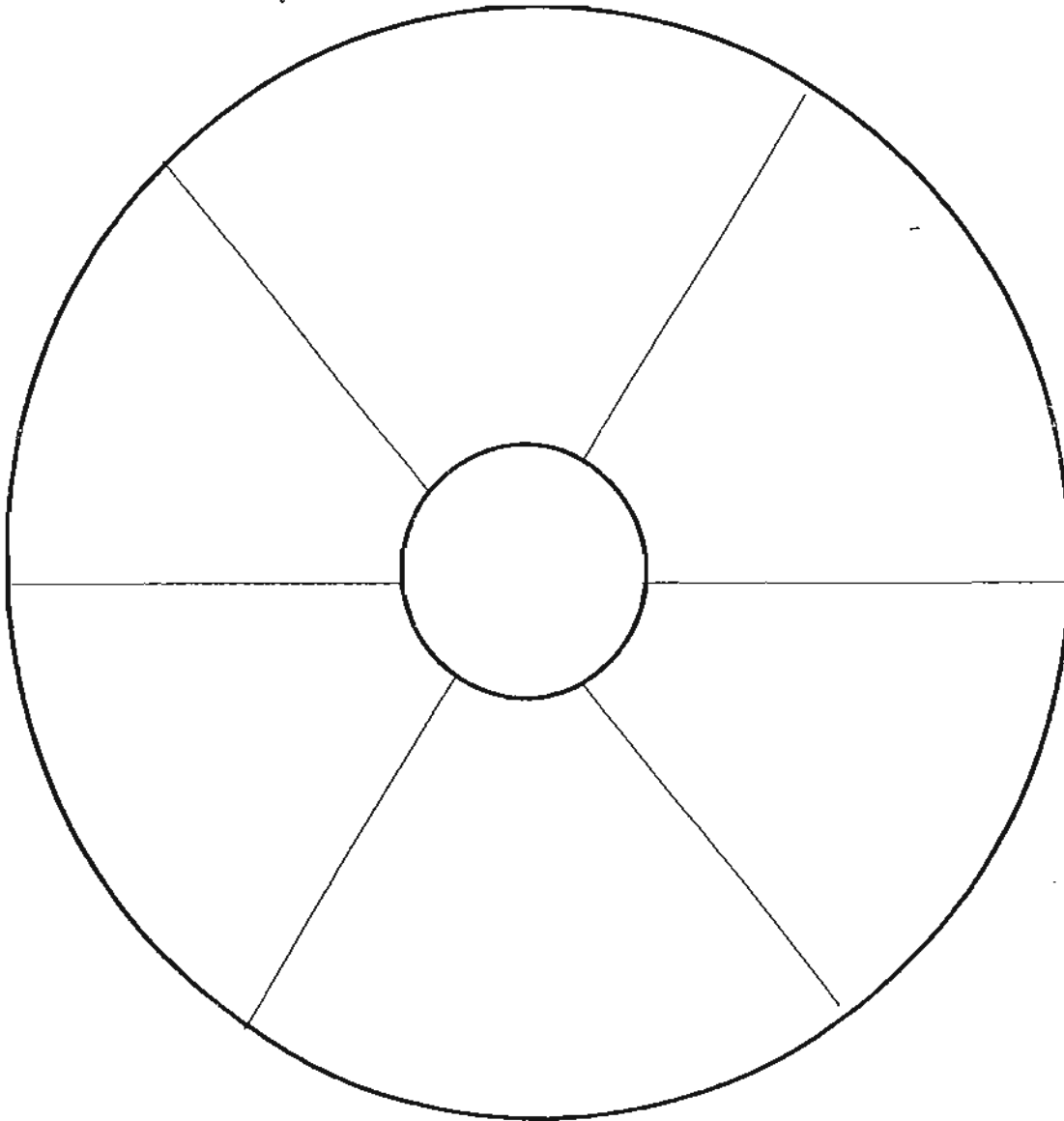
For independent (IND) books. These books are not available for Accelerated Reader Quizzes, therefore, you must complete the following assignment for **100 points**.

**Objective:** To create a colorful six part character map in the shape of a wheel . (see example).

**Materials:**

- Large sheet of light colored construction paper or poster board.
- Markers
- #2 Pencil
- Compass to create neat circle

**\*\*\*Must be handwritten and in your own words.**



**Rubric: Each portion of the project has been assigned a points value. In order to receive full credit you need to include ALL of the following:**

- 5 points
  - Name, Date, and Period (In center circle on the back)
- 5 points
  - Title and Author (In center circle on the front)
- 10 points
  - Color, Creativity and Effort
- 10 points
  - Correct spelling and grammar (NO jargon!)
- 10 points **Main Character**
  - Colorful and Creative Picture (On Front)
  - 6 adjectives to describe the character (On Back)
- 10 points **Antagonist**
  - Colorful and Creative Picture (On Front)
  - 6 adjectives to describe the character (On Back)
- 10 points **Setting**
  - Colorful and creative picture (On Front)
  - 3 full and complete sentences that describe the setting (On Back)
- 10 points **Problem**
  - 3 full and complete sentences that describe the character's problem (On Front)
  - 3 full and complete sentences that describe the climax of the main character's problem (On Back)
- 10 points **Solution**
  - 3 full and complete sentences that describe the character's resolution (On Front)
  - 3 full and complete sentences that describe the outcome of the solution (On Back)
- 20 points **Alternate Ending**
  - In 6-8 full and complete sentences describe another solution to the books ending.
  - → Think, "How would I have solved this problem differently?"
    - Answer in your own words and support your thesis with details from the book.

**\*\*\*Must be handwritten and in your own words.**