

Rising 7th Grade Summer Reading, 2021

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All rising 7th graders are required to read two novels for English class during the summer:

***Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt**

***A Place to Hang the Moon* by Kate Albus**

****Students, you must have a “hard” copy (as in, not digital) of each of these books to use in class at the start of the school year.****

Additionally, all rising 7th graders must complete the *Tuck Everlasting* and the *A Place to Hang the Moon* post-reading reflections.

Students, you must bring your novels and your written work to English class on Monday, August 23.

POST-READING REFLECTIONS INSTRUCTIONS-

After you have finished reading each novel, write a 1-paragraph response for each of the reflections listed here. Be sure to address ALL parts of the reflection in your paragraph.

Write your paragraphs on notebook paper. Write neatly, in pencil or in blue or black ink.

Please do not write on the back of your notebook paper. Staple your notebook paper in the order of the reflections.

Write your first and last name at the top of each piece of notebook paper.

Label your reflections according to the book, as I have here. Number your responses just as I have numbered the reflections for you.

***Tuck Everlasting* Reflections**

Reflection #1:

The fountain of youth is a legendary source of eternal life. Talk with members of your family about what it would be like to drink from the fountain of youth. What do your family members feel would be good about living forever? What do your family members feel would be some of the problems of living forever?

Reflection #2:

Winnie talks to the toad, perhaps because she is lonely. Describe a pet or an object you have talked to when you have felt lonely or sad. Why do you think having a pet or a special object to talk to when lonely or sad helps sometimes more than having a real person to talk to?

Reflection #3:

Mae's music box is special to her. She takes it wherever she goes. Describe an object that is special to you. It does not have to be something you take with you wherever you go, just something very special. Why is it special to you?

Reflection #4:

Choose 1 event in the novel and write a paragraph explaining how changing this part of the novel would change what happens in the rest of the novel.

Reflection #5:

What is the difference in bravery and recklessness? Do you feel Winnie shows bravery or recklessness when she takes Mae's place in jail? Why? Describe a time when you have shown either bravery or recklessness.

A Place to Hang the Moon Reflections

Reflection #1:

Miss Collins, the children's old housekeeper, feels that William, Edmund, and Anna need a "proper guardian." How do you think Miss Collins would describe a "proper guardian"? What qualities would you desire in a "proper guardian"?

Reflection #2:

The novel is set in England during World War II. Mr. Engersoll sees the war as an "opportunity" for the children. Explain why Mr. Engersoll advises the children not to tell anyone about their grandmother or their inheritance. William thinks this is lying. Mr. Engersoll says, "I wouldn't want you to lie so much as to omit the truth" (p. 17). What is the difference?

Reflection #3:

Anna often asks William to tell stories about their parents. Why does he embellish the stories? Edmund never asks for stories, but he is always eager to listen. What does this reveal about Edmund? The one story that is completely true is that their mother thought her children "hung the moon." What does this phrase mean? Tell me about someone who thinks you "hung the moon" or someone whom you think "hung the moon."

Reflection #4:

Nora reads aloud *The Hobbit* and it reminds the children of the following quote: “It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him” (p. 262). Who are the dragons in the lives of the Pearce children? Who are the dragons in Nora’s life? Don’t name names here, but tell me about a dragon in your life or in one of your family member’s lives. Remember, do this without listing anyone’s name. In fact, you should just write “a family member” instead of labeling that family member as your mom, dad, brother, etc.

Reflection #5:

Explain what Nora means when she says, “The past months, you children have been an oasis in a life that’s been far too much of a desert” (p. 302). Explain what their life as a family might look like going forward. Tell me about a person or a place that is “an oasis” for you.