

9th Grade Summer Reading

Freshman Expository Writing

Trouble by Gary D. Schmidt

ISBN 978-0547331331

Why are you reading this book?

- The protagonist, Henry Smith, is a teenager who lives in an idyllic town, Blythbury-by-the-Sea, but he encounters a life-changing experience that challenges him to view his world differently. He begins a journey with his dog to climb Mt. Katahdin to find what it means to live in a fallen and broken world.
- Identity is a theme that students will explore throughout their year in Freshman Expository Writing through their reading of literature, writing, and personal reflection. Gary D. Schmidt's novel is one account of how a person's identity is shaped.

What to look for as you read:

- Throughout the *entire* novel following Henry Smith's journey, underline or highlight and annotate key moments, specific lines, or impactful statements that reflect one of the themes below.

Themes:

- Loss and Grief
- Independence
- Prejudice
- Father/Son Relationships

Optional Challenge Themes:

- Forgiveness
- Empathy

How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book when you return?

- Annotations While Reading:
 - Annotations are not only key passages that are highlighted or underlined but also include written ideas that show your thinking during reading.
 - While reading, you should annotate by:
 - Highlighting or underlining at least 15-25 key passages that reflect the chosen theme
 - Briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note that make connections using:
 - Text to text: a connection between the text and another text that you've read
 - Text to self: a connection between the text and your life experiences
 - Text to world: a connection between the text and the world
 - How the passage reflects or expands the theme
 - Questions: thought-provoking questions that help to clarify information or deepen discussion
 - See Example Annotation on the following page.
- Paragraph Assessment
 - When students return to school, they will be guided through the writing process to produce a typed, formal paragraph to conclude the unit.

Please email Elizabeth Holliday at eholliday@wcastl.org if you have any questions.

Example Annotation:

