

English 7 with Mrs. Donlin

Summer Reading Assignment 2025

Welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts!

Over the summer, you will need to read and annotate one required book. [Skeleton Creek Book 1](#) by Patrick Carman is the first story in a series of courageous adventures, friendship, and choices set in Skeleton Creek, Oregon. There is also an optional online video and urban legend scavenger hunt webquest from the author.

1. **Read this required book:** [Skeleton Creek Book 1](#) by Patrick Carman (190-200 pages depending on printing copy you have, Lexile 740--accessible to all students)*If you need help purchasing the novel or have other questions, please reach out to me at cdonlin@theaskacademy.org by noon or so on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.
2. **As you read, annotate the book to show your active reading.** Use and tape sticky notes into a notebook or used lined notes in a notebook (or if it is your own book, you can write directly in the book). Make annotations to reflect your thinking as you read (1 every couple of pages for a total of at least 100 or more----these will be checked.). Use the strategies below or on this link for ideas on how to annotate. **Rubrics are on the back/page 2.**
 - a. Make connections to your life, what you know, or other texts,
 - b. Ask questions like why and how to help you get to deeper meanings.
 - c. Summarize sections, chapters, or who, where, when, the conflict, etc.,
 - d. Beside a written note, draw what you "see" if you are a doodler
 - e. Make predictions of what you think will happen next.
3. **Write:** Your HANDWRITTEN response to **ONE** of the following prompts (questions) should be **multiple paragraphs long and include 3 pieces of evidence from the book**. Please **skip lines and be sure your written work is legible. See rubric**. If you have existing accommodations in reading or writing, please reach out to me to support you by noon on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025.

*****Handwrite a response in 4+ paragraphs to ONE of the following questions:

- a. **The Role of Friendship:** Discuss the importance of the friendship between Ryan and Sarah in "Skeleton Creek." How does their relationship help them confront the challenges they face? Provide specific examples from the text to illustrate how their friendship influences their decisions and actions throughout the story.
- b. **Courage in the Face of Fear:** Analyze how Ryan and Sarah demonstrate courage as they investigate the mysteries surrounding Skeleton Creek. What fears do they confront, and how do their actions reflect the theme of courage? Use examples from the book to support your argument.
- c. **The Impact of Technology:** Explore how technology plays a crucial role in the story. How does the use of video and online communication affect the way Ryan and Sarah gather information and connect with each other? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of relying on technology in their investigation.
- d. **The Power of Mystery:** Examine the theme of mystery in "Skeleton Creek." How does the author use suspense and unanswered questions to engage the reader? Discuss how the elements of mystery contribute to the overall tone of the story and the development of the characters.
- e. **Facing Consequences:** Reflect on the consequences of Ryan and Sarah's actions as they delve deeper into the mysteries of Skeleton Creek. What lessons do they learn about curiosity and the potential dangers of pursuing the unknown? Discuss how these consequences shape their



understanding of bravery and caution.

4. **FIRST DAY BACK:** We are using this book in the first weeks of school, so it is important that you have read the book. It is *required* that you bring the book to the first day of school with evidence of your active reading (your completed annotations). You will receive grades for your summer reading in the first week:
- Test: you will take a short test on [Skeleton Creek Book 1](#). If you read it, you will do well!
 - Annotations: To get a grade of proficient or higher, you need to annotate every other page or more using 2+ different types of annotations that are listed above. (a total of at least 75).
 - Written Response. To receive a grade of proficient or higher, you need to write 4+ paragraphs with each containing 6+ sentences AND 3+ pieces of evidence from the book to fully support your answer to the ONE prompt you selected.

This must be done by the 1st day of school! If you do not read by the 1st day, then you will have to read it in class and have zeros for the annotations, essay, and the test until they are completed. The rubrics for all middle school ELA classes are very similar.

Rubric for Annotations:

Target Skill	4 Extending	3 Proficient	2 Nearing	1 Beginning	0 Incomplete
Number of Annotations	I show evidence of close reading by writing an annotation 1 time per page. (190-200)	I show evidence of close reading by writing annotations every other page. (approximate 95-100)	I show evidence of close reading by writing annotations every 3 pages. (approximate 60-70)	I show some evidence of close reading by writing annotations three to four per chapter. (approximately 36-50)	Little to no evidence of annotations. Annotations are less than three per chapter. (any number of annotations <= 35)
Variety of Annotations	I use 4+ different types of annotations throughout work.	I use 3 different types of annotations throughout work	I use 2 different types of annotations throughout work.	I use 1 type of annotation throughout work	I do not annotate or only use 1 type of annotation.
Completion of Reading	My annotations are on the whole 100% of the required text.	My annotations are on 80-90% of the required text.	My annotations are on 70%-80% of the required text.	My annotations are on 50%-70% of the required text.	My annotations are on less than 50% of the required text..

Rubric for Written Response:

Proficiency	4 Extending	3 Proficient	2 Nearing	1 Beginning	0 Incomplete
Prompt Response	Fully answers the prompt.		Does not fully answer the prompt.		Does NOT write about any prompt.
Textual Evidence	4 quotes that are incorporated into the writing and are explained	3 quotes that are incorporated into the writing and are explained	1-2 quotes and/or the quotes are not incorporated into the writing	No textual evidence or quotes, but does reference the text and what happens.	Does NOT write about the book.
Organization	5 paragraphs total, with an <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction with a hook , <input type="checkbox"/> 3 body paragraphs with transitions , <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion that explains why the ideas matter.	4 paragraphs total, with an <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 body paragraphs, <input type="checkbox"/> conclusion.	3 paragraphs total, with an: <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, <input type="checkbox"/> 1 body paragraph, <input type="checkbox"/> conclusion.	1-2 paragraphs total, with 1-2 missing elements: <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, <input type="checkbox"/> body paragraph, <input type="checkbox"/> conclusion.	Does NOT write a full paragraph.