

The Petrides School

Anthony Tabbitas, Principal

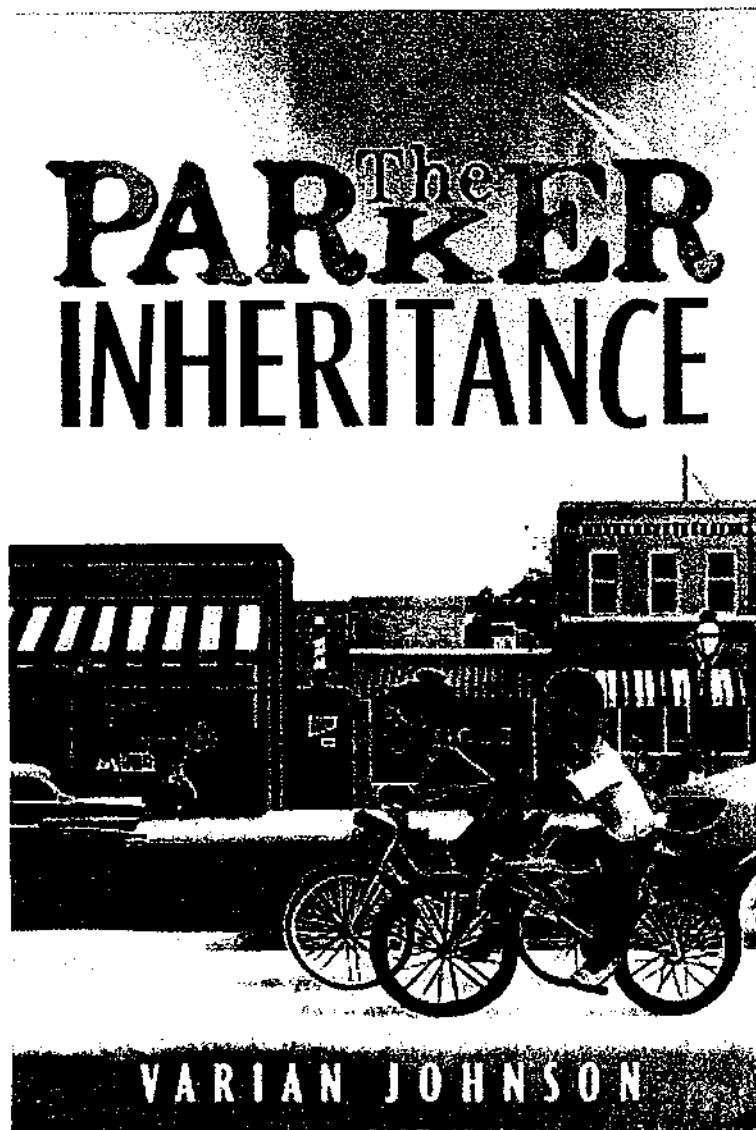
BettyAnn Souffrin, Assistant Principal

Incoming 6th Grade Summer Reading Project

Due: Friday, October 1, 2026

This assignment will be counted towards your 1st marking period average as a “project” grade. Use of AI will directly result in a 0% as your first score in 6th grade – no exceptions!

Required Reading: “The Parker Inheritance” by Varian Johnson



Extra Credit: (Example below)

- Book Collage: students will create a one page collage using Canva or Google slides with images and descriptions to demonstrate their knowledge of the following elements in “**The Parker Inheritance**” by **Varian Johnson**:

- Main character
- Theme
- Conflict
- Setting
- Key Events
- Favorite Novel Quotes

"You must promise me that you will always remember how lucky you are to be you." — Abuelita

"Esperanza, remember, the only thing stronger than fear is hope." — Mama

"We do not belong to the land; the land belongs to us." — Abuelita

"She was not that girl anymore. She was Esperanza."

MAIN CHARACTERS

Esperanza Ortega
The protagonist. A privileged girl whose life changes forever when her father is killed. She learns to face hardship with courage and grows into a strong, independent young woman.

Mama
Esperanza's loving and determined mother. She protects Esperanza and teaches her the value of hard work, family, and hope.

Miguel
Esperanza's younger brother. He looks up to her and finds joy in small things, even during difficult times.

Abuelita
Esperanza's grandmother. She shares her wisdom, stories, and strength, helping Esperanza remember their heritage.

KEY EVENTS: ESPERANZA'S JOURNEY

- Lives a wealthy life in Mexico
- Tragedy strikes—her father is killed
- Mama and Esperanza move to California to seek a new life
- Faces poverty, hard work, and discrimination
- Learns to pick oranges and adapts to a new world
- Finds hope, love, and a sense of belonging
- Dreams of a better future and holds on to hope

MAJOR CONFLICT

Person vs. Circumstances
Esperanza's comfortable life is shattered by tragedy. She must learn to survive in a new world of poverty and hard labor. Her struggle to keep hope alive and build a better future drives the entire story.

SETTING

The novel takes place in Mexico and California during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Esperanza Rising
PAM MUÑOZ RYAN

THEME: HOPE & RESILIENCE
Esperanza's journey is one of loss, hardship, and transformation. Through love, family, and inner strength, she learns that hope can grow even in the toughest soil. Her story is a reminder that we can overcome fear and adversity to create a better future for ourselves and others.

"Hope is like the sun. If you only believe in it when you can see it, you'll never make it through the night." — Esperanza

Summer Reading Assignment Sample

<u>Pg #</u>	<u>Quotation:</u> (Quote directly from the book)	<u>Analysis:</u> (What strikes you about this? What was your first thought when you read this? What does this passage/idea make you think of or remember? Does something confuse you or lead to further questions? How do you feel about this? What questions do you have?)
EXAMPLE	<u>EXAMPLE:</u>	<u>EXAMPLE:</u>
Pg. 2	"Wait a little while and the fruit will fall into your hand,"	It really struck me how much Esperanza had to change from being a rich, spoiled girl in Mexico to working so hard in the California camp. At first, I thought that telling someone to just "be patient" sounded kind of annoying because when things are bad you want them to fix right away, but then it made me think of when I had to start over at a brand new school where I didn't know anyone and had to just wait for things to get better. This passage makes me wonder how long you are supposed to keep waiting before you decide to just climb the tree yourself, and it confuses me a little because the farmworkers were being treated so unfairly and I don't know if patience is always the best answer when people are striking.
Pg. 253	"Do not ever be afraid of starting over."	My first thought was that starting over actually sounds terrifying when you lose your dad and your home overnight, and it reminds me of standing in an unfamiliar place on the first day at a new school wishing you could just go back to how things used to be. It confuses me how a grandmother could stay so brave when her whole world was burning down, but it also makes me feel super empowered because it turns a tragedy into a brave choice instead of something to be ashamed of. Now I just wonder how a person can tell the difference between a normal "valley" life throws at you that you can climb out of, and a trap that is purposely designed to keep you down.

Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

1- Far below Standards	2- Approaches Standards	3- Meets Standards	4- Exceeds Standards
Demonstrates little understanding of the text with very little detail.	Demonstrates a literal explanation of the text. There are no inferences being made.	Explanations show some analysis of the text. There are literal and inferential details.	Explanations show deeper thinking. Analysis is insightful and grounded in solid reasoning. Reactions and comments are varied.
Demonstrates an attempt to use some textual evidence, but may be invalid or irrelevant.	Some responses contain relevant textual evidence.	Most responses contain relevant textual evidence.	Each response contains relevant textual evidence. Details and information from the reading are often referred to.
Includes 6 or fewer quotes that exhibit little understanding of the text.	Includes 7-10 quotes that exhibit a good understanding of the text.	Includes 10 strong quotes that exhibit a good understanding of the text.	Includes more than 10 strong quotes that exhibit a solid understanding of the text. Goes above and beyond the requirements of the project.
Demonstrates imprecise or below grade level vocabulary.	Uses some grade appropriate vocabulary.	Uses grade appropriate vocabulary.	Uses above grade-level vocabulary & sophisticated language.
Demonstrates a lack of command of conventions, with frequent errors that hinder comprehension.	Demonstrates emerging command of conventions, with some errors that may hinder comprehension.	Demonstrates grade-appropriate command of conventions, with occasional errors that do not hinder comprehension.	Demonstrates grade-appropriate command of conventions, with few errors.

Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: Fill in the following boxes with quotes from the book and inferences from your thinking.

Step 1: While reading, find quotes that stand out to you as being important. Use the analysis questions to help guide your thinking and choice of quotes.

Step 2: When you find an important quote, stop, write down the page number and the direct quote that you want to analyze in Columns 1 and 2 in the graphic organizer.

Step 3: You should answer at least one or two of the analysis questions in the 3rd column to explain why you chose this quote. Include thoughtful comments, questions, connections, reactions, inferences, predictions, etc.

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