

St. Mary's School – Middle Years Program, Level 2 – Language A

Summer Reading for Incoming Seventh Grade Students

Over the summer, you are required to read a novel that connects to concepts presented in both your sixth and seventh grade MYP curricula. The book will be provided to you. Please begin reading in June so that you have plenty of time to read it leisurely, reflect on it, and complete a hand-written reflection, adhering to the requirements described below. The required summer novel is:

1. ***Catherine, Called Birdy*, by Karen Cushman** (ISBN-10: 9780064405843 or ISBN-13: 978-0064405843)

When you return to school in September, you will turn in your reflection, which shall satisfy the criteria described below:

The reflection:

- Your reflection must be hand-written, double-spaced.
- IMPORTANT: A reflection does not merely summarize, nor does it re-tell the events of a story. Instead, a reflection provides you the opportunity to discuss what you find interesting about the characters, their dilemmas, the events of the story, or its theme or setting. Here are just a few prompts you might consider responding to: How do the characters change? How do they face hardship? Do you admire them? Would you respond similarly? How do the events of the story relate to current events around the world?
- Your reflection will consist of a series of paragraphs, rather than an organized essay. Write one paragraph on your thoughts or feelings about the selection after reading the following chapters, *for a total of SEVEN paragraphs*.
 - 1) September, October
 - 2) November, December
 - 3) January, February
 - 4) March, April
 - 5) May, June
 - 6) July, August
 - 7) September
- Your reflection must include each of the following topics, ***not in every paragraph but at least once in your reflection***. You may discuss multiple topics in one paragraph so long as you show that they are related in some way.
(Please highlight these words in yellow the first time that you discuss them.)
 - Fleas
 - Food
 - Dress
 - Etiquette

- Religious beliefs
 - Marriage
 - Public health or Sanitary practices (perhaps, lack thereof)
 - Herbal medicines or Medical practices
- Your reflection must be written in complete sentences.
 - Cite pages of the text when describing what happened to whom, when, where, or how, whether your description of the story includes a quote or not. Please note the correct format for citation in the example below.
 - EXAMPLE: The first sentence for a reflection paragraph might begin like this example. Please note the correct punctuation and format of the parenthetical citation.

After reading chapters one and two, "September and October," I have chosen to write about the nineteen birds that Catherine keeps "in cages hanging from the roof timbers" because I have two finches at home and would love to have many more varieties of birds (Cushman 36).

- Your reflection paragraphs will be assessed according to the IB Language A criteria on a scale of 1-10:
 - Criterion A** for content (details, analysis, clarity);
 - Criterion B** for coherence and adherence to language arts conventions (logical, smooth flow of ideas with reference to the text for support);
 - Criterion C** mechanics and neatness (correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and word choice).

The Essay:

Upon your return to school in September, you will write an in-class formal five-paragraph essay about the novel. Therefore, please bring your book to class. This essay will be a formative assignment.

We will go through the steps to writing this essay in class, so it is not advised that you practice writing this essay during the summer.

The purpose of the essay is to share how reading *Catherine, Called Birdy* influenced or related to your ideas about your own life, so your summer reflection will serve as a brainstorming activity, which is likely to generate ideas you can use for your essay.