

Skinner North 6th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

I hope that you have a fun and safe summer! I am so excited to be working with you for the next year. We are going to learn a lot and have a lot of fun while doing it.

For your summer reading assignment, I am asking that you read two books from the attached reading list. There is also a list of eighteen activities. You are required to do **five** activities for **each** book. If you want to repeat two of the activities, please feel free. A set of graphic organizers is also attached to coordinate with several of the activities. Not all of the activities require a graphic organizer, but they can be helpful.

My email is mecox1@cps.edu. I check it a lot, so please feel free to email me at any time if you have questions. I also have a sixth grade page set up on our website. You can always reach me through that.

skinnernorthmiddleschool.weebly.com

Happy Reading!



1. Write 6-8 questions you would like to ask a character at any point in the novel.
(Graphic Organizer A)
2. Draw an illustration of a description of the setting that is in the novel.
3. Do a Spider-graph/Mind Map of words that describe a character near the start of the novel. Do the same at the end of the novel to see how the character has changed.
(Graphic Organizer B)
4. Look at a point in the novel where a central character has to make a decision. Would you have made the same decision? Why/Why Not? Write about the decision that you would have made and why you would have made that decision.
5. Create a Word Search using descriptive words from the novel.
6. Get a character to write a letter to a character from another novel that you have read.
(Graphic Organizer C)
7. Write a letter from yourself to a character in the novel giving them advice, asking them a series of questions, chastising them for a decision they have made etc.
(Graphic Organizer C)
8. Complete a web graphic organizer with questions and answers that you think a character must be asking themselves at a particular point in the novel.
(Graphic Organizer A)
9. Get two characters to have a text message conversation at a particular point in the novel.
(Graphic Organizer D)

10. Compare two characters **in** the novel. List three ways in which they are similar and three ways in which they are different. (Graphic Organizer E)

11. Compare two characters from two different novels that you have read.
(Graphic Organizer E)

12. Compare two different novels. List three ways in which they are similar and three ways in which they are different. (Graphic Organizer E)

13. Create a Voki (<http://www.voki.com/>) and get the character to speak his/her thoughts at a particular point in the novel.

14. Write about an event that happened to you that was similar to something that happened to a character in the novel eg. an embarrassing moment, a dangerous situation, a happy event, a time you had to make a difficult decision etc.

15. Re-design the cover of the novel for the publication of its next edition.

16. Give pupils quiz questions based on a chapter/section of the novel. (Graphic Organizer F)

17. Write a Book Review at the end of the novel. (Graphic Organizer G)

18. Write a response to a viewing of a film based on the novel. Was the film true to the novel? Which was better? Why?

6th Grade Recommended Summer Reading

At least one book must come from this list. Students can select an appropriate book that is not on this list for their second book if they email me for approval first (mecox1@cps.edu).

***Although the majority of these novels are recommended by the American Library Association, we encourage parents and students to investigate and discuss book options together in order to make appropriate choices.**



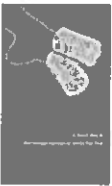
***Define Normal* by Julie Anne Peters**

Antonia is a "priss," Jazz is a "punk." Antonia belongs to the math club. Jazz hangs out at the tattoo parlor. Antonia's parents are divorced and her mother struggles to pay the rent. Jazz is from a traditional family and lives in a mansion with a pool. But when these two very different girls find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program, they discover they have some surprising things in common. Alternately hilarious and heart-wrenching, this is an absorbing read that will keep audiences thinking and laughing.



***Fairest* by Gail Carson Levine**

A spellbinding tale of adventure, romance, and song.



***Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac**

The United States is at war, and sixteen-year-old Ned Begay wants to join the cause especially when he hears that Navajos are being specifically recruited by the Marine Corps. So he claims he's old enough to enlist, breezes his way through boot camp, and suddenly finds himself involved in a top-secret task, one that's exclusively performed by Navajos. He has become a code talker. Now Ned must brave some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with his native Navajo language as code, send crucial messages back and forth to aid in the conflict against Japan. His experiences in the Pacific from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima and beyond will leave him forever changed.



***The Trial: a Novel* by Jen Bryant**

In a compelling, immediate voice, 12-year-old Katie Leigh Flynn takes us inside the courtroom of the most widely publicized criminal case of the 20th century: the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby son. And in doing so, she reveals the real-life figures of the trial—the accused, the lawyers, the grieving parents—and the many faces of justice.



***The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch* by Joseph Delaney**

For years, Old Gregory has been the Spook for the county, ridding the local villages of evil. Now his time is coming to an end. But who will take over for him? Twenty-nine apprentices have tried—some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive. Only Thomas Ward is left. He's the last hope; the last apprentice. Can Thomas succeed? Will he learn the difference between a benign witch and a malevolent one? Does the Spook's warning against girls with pointy shoes include Alice? And what will happen if Thomas accidentally frees Mother Malkin, the most evil witch in the country?



***Never Mind: A Twin Novel* by Avi**

For seventh grade, brainy Meg is attending ultra-competitive Fischer, while freewheeling Edward goes to an alternative school downtown. But it's just when they're finally out of each other's shadows that the trouble begins. Meg's aspirations for popularity and a boyfriend combine with Edward's devious planning and lack of singing ability to set off a showdown the likes of which twindom has never before seen.



***Cover Up* by John Feinstein**

In his most compulsively readable sports mystery yet, bestselling and Edgar Award-winning author John Feinstein takes on steroids and drug testing as he takes readers behind the scenes of the Super Bowl and reveals the big money and even bigger egos that make pro football run.



***How Angel Peterson Got His Name* by Gary Paulsen**

WHEN YOU GROW up in a small town in the north woods, you have to make your own excitement. High spirits, idiocy, and showing off for the girls inspire Gary Paulsen and his friends to attempt: shooting waterfalls in a barrel; the first skateboarding; breaking the world record for speed on skis by being towed behind a souped-up car, and then . . . hitting gravel; jumping three barrels like motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel, except they only have bikes; wrestling . . . a bear? Extreme sports lead to extreme fun in new tales from Gary's boyhood.



***Prince Caspian* by CS Lewis**

Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensy, the heroes and heroines from *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, return in this fourth installment of C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* series. The four children are transported from an English train station to an island in the world of Narnia. Though Narnia has been at peace since the children left, it is now under the control of Wicked King Mirax. The youngsters, along with Aslan the great lion, must help young Prince Caspian restore Narnia's glorious past.



***Peter and the Shadow Thieves* by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson**

Peter leaves the relative safety of Mollusk Island - along with his trusted companion, Tinker Bell - for the cold, damp, dangerous streets of London. On a difficult journey across the sea, he and Tink discover the dark and deadly slithering part-man/part-creature Lord Ombra, who is intent on recovering the missing starstuff - celestial dust that contains unimagined powers. In London, Peter attempts to track down the indomitable Molly, hoping that together they can combat Ombra's determined forces. But London is not Mollusk Island; Peter is not the boy he used to be; and Lord Ombra - the Shadow Master - is unlike anything Peter, or the world, has ever seen.



*****Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman**

In this fresh, witty biography of the most famous bamboozler since Merlin, Sid Fleischman, a former professional magician, enriches his warm homage with insider information and unmaskings. Did Houdini really pick the jailhouse lock to let a fellow circus performer escape? Were his secrets really buried with him? Was he a bum magician, as some rivals claimed? How did he manage to be born in two cities, in two countries, on two continents at the same instant?



***The Merchant of Death* by D.J. MacHale**

Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy. He has a family, a home, and even Marley, his beloved dog. But there is something very special about Bobby. He is going to save the world. And not just Earth as we know it. Bobby is slowly starting to realize that life in the cosmos isn't quite what he thought it was.



***Sticks* by Joan Bauer**

Mickey's family owns the neighborhood pool hall, and he's been playing since before he could talk. Now that he's in fifth grade, he's determined to win the Junior Nine-Ball Championship and cream obnoxious Buck Pender. Problem is, Mickey's ten and Buck's thirteen-and could eat him for a snack. Even with his friend Arlen's help, Mickey doesn't stand a chance. Then Joe Alvarez shows up at the pool hall. He's a fantastic player, and decides to sign on as Mickey's pool coach. But it all depends on one person: Mickey. Can he beat the odds?



***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

August 1793. Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious, adventurous, and sick to death of listening to her mother. Mattie has plans of her own. She wants to turn the Cook Coffeehouse into the finest business in Philadelphia, the capital of the new United States. But the waterfront is abuzz with reports of disease. "Fever" spreads from the docks and creeps toward Mattie's home, threatening everything she holds dear. As the cemeteries fill with fever victims, fear turns to panic, and thousands flee the city. Then tragedy strikes the coffeehouse, and Mattie is trapped in a living nightmare. Suddenly, her struggle to build a better life must give way to something even more

important -- the fight to stay alive.



***After Tupac and D Foster* by Jacqueline Woodson**

The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. Suddenly they're keenly aware of things beyond their block in Queens, things that are happening in the world—like the shooting of Tupac Shakur—and in search of their Big Purpose in life. When—all too soon—D's mom swoops in to reclaim her, and Tupac dies, they are left with a sense of how quickly things can change and how even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.



***All of the Above* by Shelley Pearsall**

Based on a true story, *All of the Above* is the delightful and suspenseful story of four inner city students and their quest to build the world's largest tetrahedron. Weaving together the different personal stories of the kids, their teacher, and the community that surrounds them, award-winning author Shelley Pearsall has written a vividly engaging story about the math, life and good-tasting barbecue. Filled with unexpected humor, poignant characters and quiet brilliance, *All of the Above* is a surprising gem.



***The London Eye Mystery* by Sioban Dowd**

When Aunt Gloria's son, Salim, mysteriously disappears from a sealed pod on the London Eye, everyone is frantic. Has he spontaneously combusted? [Ted's theory.] Has he been kidnapped? [Aunt Gloria's theory.] Is he even still alive? [The family's unspoken fear.] Even the police are baffled. Ted, whose brain runs on its own unique operating system, and his older sister, Kat, overcome their prickly relationship to become sleuthing partners. They follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin, while time ticks dangerously by...



***Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls**

A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn. Little Ann had the brains, and Billy had the will to make them into the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. *Where the Red Fern Grows* is an exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.



***Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle**

It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.



***Finally* by Wendy Mass**

You can pierce your ears when you're twelve. You can go to the mall with your friends when you're twelve. You can babysit little Timmy next door when you're twelve. You can get a cell phone when you're twelve. Hey, you can even ride in the front passenger-side seat when you're twelve. When you're twelve, when you're twelve, when you're twelve . . . My name is Rory Swenson, and I've been waiting to turn twelve my whole life. In exactly 18 hours, 36 minutes, and 52 seconds, it will finally happen. My life will officially begin.



***The Great Wide Sea* by M.H. Herlong**

Ben, Dylan, and Gerry are still mourning their mother's death when their dad decides to buy a boat and take them on a year-long sailing trip. Tensions flare between Ben and his father, but they gradually learn to live together in close quarters. But one morning, the boys wake up to discover their father has disappeared—and they are lost. What happened to him? Where are they? And what will they do when a treacherous storm looms on the horizon?



***Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor**

Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mom has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, jubilation or gloom, her way or no way. All or nothing never adds up to normal. All or nothing can't bring you all to home, which is exactly where Addie longs to be, with her half sisters, every day. In spite of life's twists and turns, Addie remains optimistic. Someday, maybe, she'll find normal.



***Project Sweet Life* by Brent Hartinger**

For most kids, fifteen is the year of the optional summer job: Sure, you can get a job if you really want one, but it isn't required or anything. Too bad Dave's dad doesn't agree! Instead of enjoying long days of biking, swimming, and sitting around, Dave and his two best friends are being forced by their fathers into a summer of hard labor. The friends have something else in mind, though: Not only will they not work over the summer, but they're determined to trick everyone into believing they really do have jobs. So what if the lifeguard doesn't have a tan or the fast-food worker isn't bringing home buckets of free chicken? There's only one problem: Dave's dad wants evidence that his son is

actually bringing in money. And that means Dave, Curtis, and Victor will have to get some . . . without breaking the law and without doing any work!



***Touch Blue* by Cynthia Lord**

The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland--and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children. So now Tess and her family are taking a chance on Aaron, a thirteen-year-old trumpet player who has been bounced from home to home. And Tess needs a plan of her own--and all the luck she can muster. Will Tess's wish come true or will her luck run out?



***The Wild Girls* by Pat Murphy**

It's 1972. Twelve-year-old Joan is sure that she is going to be miserable when her family moves. Then she meets a most unusual girl. Sarah prefers to be called "Fox," and lives with her author dad in a rundown house in the middle of the woods. The two girls start writing their own stories together, and when one wins first place in a student contest, they find themselves recruited for a summer writing class taught by the equally unusual Verla Volante. *The Wild Girls* brilliantly explores friendship, the power of story, and how coming of age means finding your own answers.



***The Case of the Missing Marquess: an Enola Holmes Mystery* by Nancy Springer**

When Enola Holmes, sister to the detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she quickly embarks on a journey to London in search of her. But nothing can prepare her for what awaits. Because when she arrives, she finds herself involved in the kidnapping of a young marquess, fleeing murderous villains, and trying to elude her shrewd older brothers—all while attempting to piece together clues to her mother's strange disappearance. Amid all the mayhem, will Enola be able to decode the necessary clues and find her mother?



***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family . . . Beloved master storyteller Neil Gaiman returns with a luminous new novel for the audience that embraced his *New York Times* bestselling modern classic *Coraline*. Magical, terrifying, and filled with breathtaking adventures, *The Graveyard Book* is sure to enthrall readers of all ages.



***When the Whistle Blows* by Fran Cannon Slayton**

Jimmy lives in Rowlesburg, West Virginia, during the 1940s. He does all the things boys do in the small mountain town: plays a mean game of football, pulls the unforgettable Halloween prank with his friends in "the Platoon," and promises to head off into the woods on the first day of hunting season—no matter what. He also knows his father belongs to a secret society, and is determined to uncover the mysteries behind it! But it is a midnight encounter with a train that shows Jimmy the man his father really is. Newcomer Fran Cannon Slayton's powerful first novel captures the serendipity of boyhood by shining a spotlight on the peak adventures of Jimmy's life. But at its heart, this is a story about a boy and his father in a time when trains reigned supreme.



***The Clone Codes* by Pat McKissack**

The Cyborg Wars are over and Earth has peacefully prospered for more than one hundred years. Yet sometimes history must repeat itself until humanity learns from its mistakes. In the year 2170, despite technological and political advances, cyborgs and clones are treated no better than slaves, and an underground abolitionist movement is fighting for freedom. Thirteen-year-old Leanna's entire life is thrown into chaos when The World Federation of Nations discovers her mom is part of the radical Liberty Bell Movement. After her mother's arrest for treason, Leanna must escape as she is chased by a ruthless bounty hunter. Soon Leanna finds herself living among the Firsts, and nothing will ever be the same again. But what does The World Federation want with the daughter of a traitor? So much is uncertain. Danger hides everywhere. Fear takes over. With help from unlikely sources, Leanna learns the origin of The Liberty Bell Movement and how its members may have answers about her past—and her new reality. As family secrets are revealed, Leanna must face startling truths about self-identity and freedom. Through time travel, advanced technologies, and artificial intelligence, this exhilarating adventure asks what it means to be human and explores the sacrifices an entire society will make to find out.



***Worldshaker* by Richard Harland**

Col is a wealthy child of privilege. Raised to succeed his grandfather as the Supreme Commander of the juggernaut Worldshaker, he has lived a pampered life on the Upper Decks. He has never questioned his place in the world or his bright and illustrious future. But when a Filthy girl stows away in his cabin, suddenly nothing is clear anymore. Quick and clever, Riff is nothing like the Filthies that Col always learned about—the dumb, slow, less-than-human folk who toil away Below, keeping Worldshaker moving. Filthies are supposed to be animal-like, without the power of speech or the ability to think for themselves—but Riff is clever and quick and outspoken, and Col is drawn to her despite himself. As Col begins to secretly spend more time with Riff, he begins to question everything he was raised to believe was true, and realizes that if Riff is right, then everything he was raised to believe is a lie. And Col himself may be the only person in a position to do something about it—even if it means risking his future.



***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Philbrick, W. R.**

Master storyteller Rodman Philbrick takes readers on a colorful journey as young Homer Figg sets off to follow his brother into the thick of the Civil War. Through a series of fascinating events, Homer's older brother has been illegally sold to the Union Army. It is up to Homer to find him and save him. Along the way, he encounters strange but real people of that era: two tricksters who steal his money, a snake-oil salesman, a hot-air balloonist, and finally, the Maine regiment who saved Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg and won the war for the Union.



**** *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip M. Hoose**

In March 1955, nine months before Rosa Parks triggered the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., by refusing to surrender her seat to a white passenger, a 15-year-old Montgomery girl, Claudette Colvin, let herself be arrested and dragged off the bus for the same reason; in 1956, Colvin was one of four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, a landmark case in which Montgomery's segregated bus system was declared unconstitutional. Because Colvin had been tearful in the period following her 1955 conviction, when her classmates shunned her, she was deemed too "emotional" to place at the center of the bus boycott; by the time Parks assumed that position, Colvin was disgraced: pregnant but not married. Hoose's evenhanded account investigates Colvin's motives and influences, and carefully establishes the historical context so that readers can appreciate both Colvin's maturity and bravery and the boycott leadership's pragmatism.



***The Children We Remember* by Chana Byers Abells**

Through moving photographs from the Yad Vashem Archives in Jerusalem, Israel, archivist Chana Byers Abells has created an unforgettable essay about the children who lived and died during the Holocaust. While it is a story of death and loss, it is also a story of courage and endurance, a story to be shared with today's children.



***Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Green**

Minutes before the train pulled into the station in Jenkinsville, Arkansas, Patty Bergen knew something exciting was going to happen. But she never could have imagined that her summer would be so memorable. German prisoners of war have arrived to make their new home in the prison camp in Jenkinsville. To the rest of her town, these prisoners are only Nazis. But to Patty, a young Jewish girl with a turbulent home life, one boy in particular becomes an unlikely friend. Anton relates to Patty in ways that her mother and father never can. But when their forbidden relationship is discovered, will Patty risk her family and town for the understanding and love of one boy?



***When the Soldiers Were Gone* by Vera W. Propp**

Henk was hidden on the farm when he was young and the Nazi soldiers came. But the war is over now, and Henk finds out that the people he lives with, the people he loves, are not his real family. He doesn't remember his real parents, and now a new life in the city lies ahead of him. Will things ever be the same?

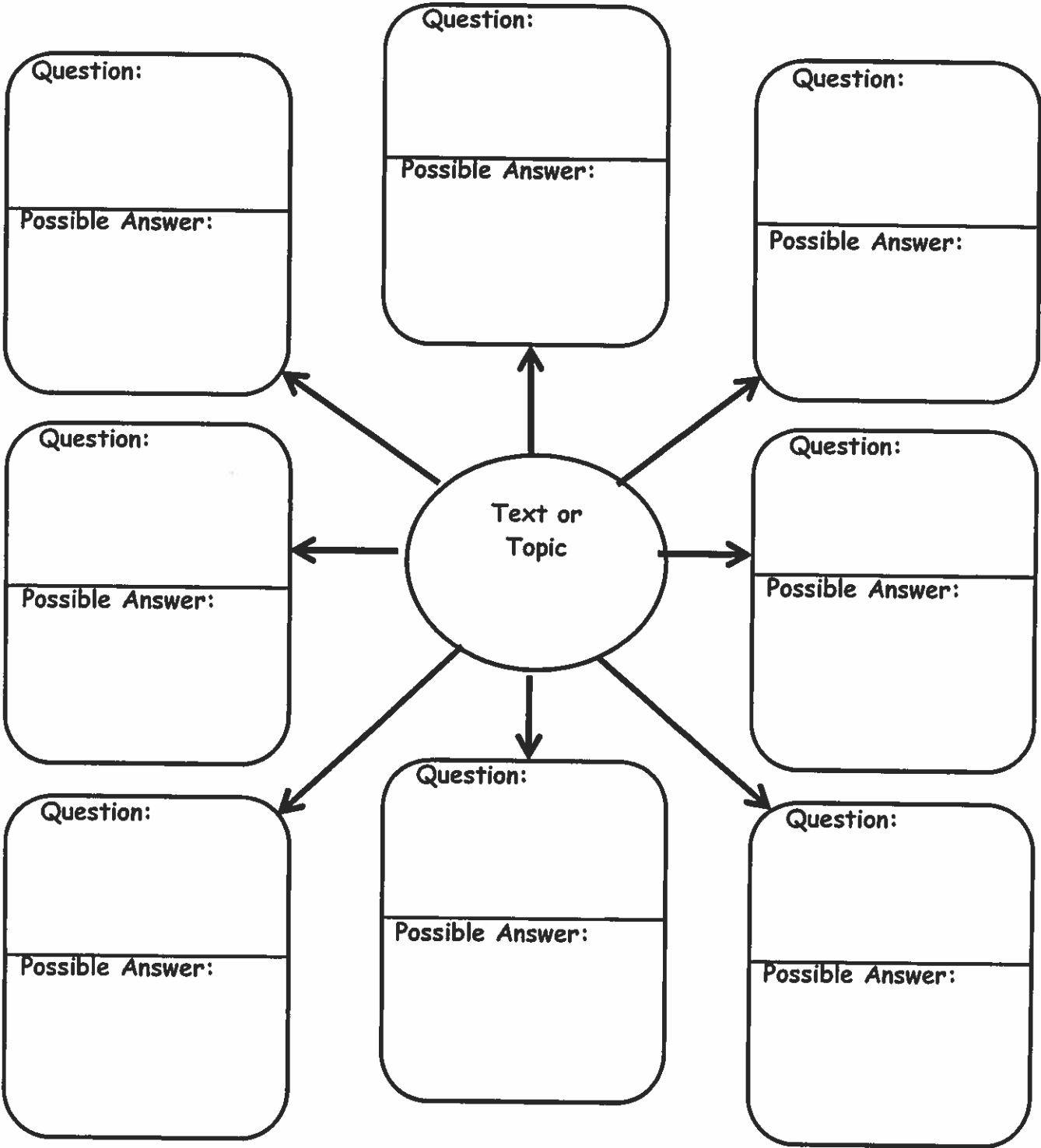


***When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr**

Anna is not sure who Hitler is, but she sees his face on posters all over Berlin. Then one morning, Anna and her brother awake to find her father gone! Her mother explains that their father has had to leave and soon they will secretly join him. Anna just doesn't understand. Why do their parents keep insisting that Germany is no longer safe for Jews like them? Because of Hitler, Anna must leave everything behind. Based on the gripping real-life story of the author, this poignant backlist staple gets a brand new look for a new generation of readers just in time for Holocaust Remembrance Month.

Question Web

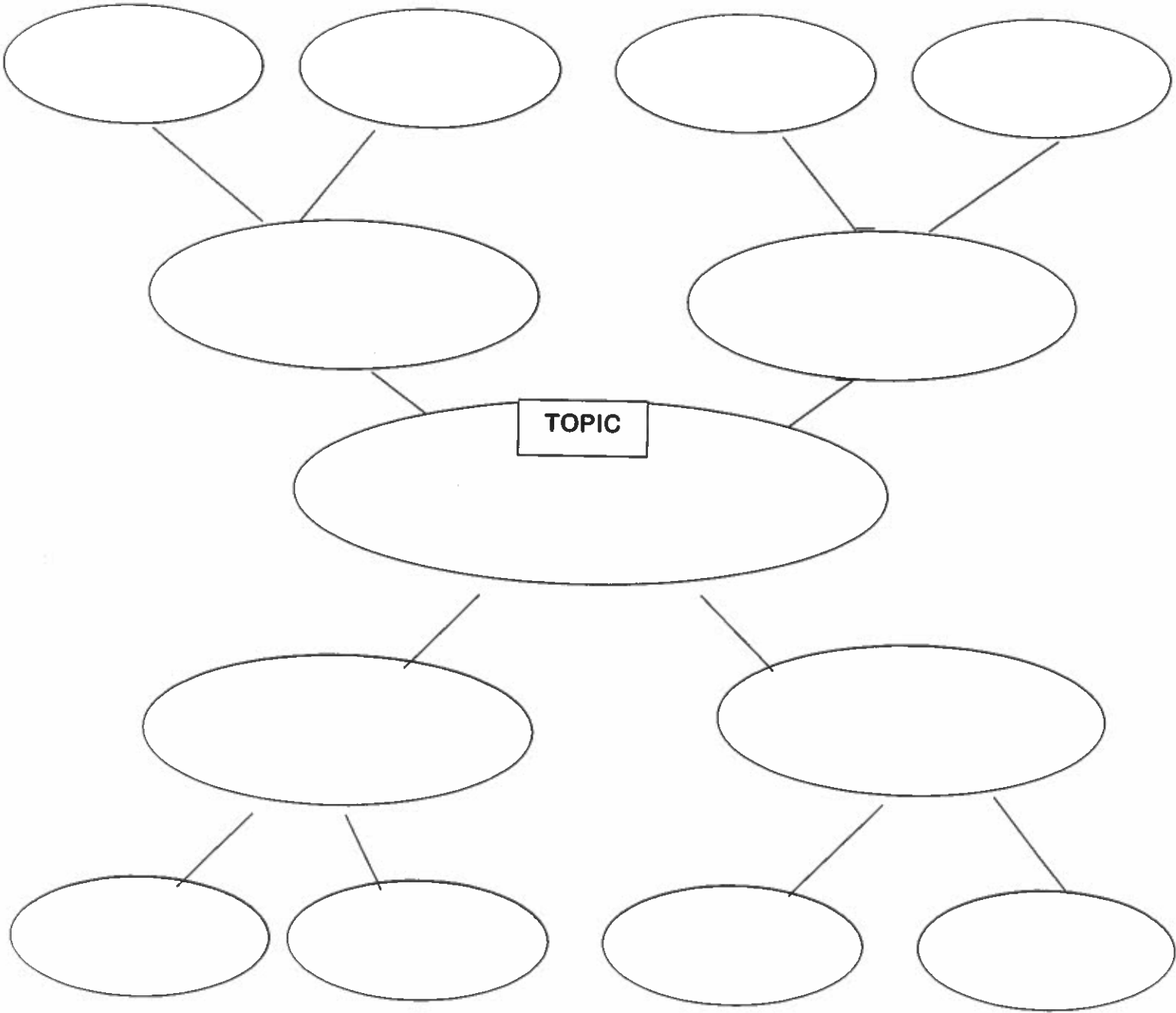
Text: _____



Name _____

Date _____

Graphic Organizer – Cluster/Word Web



Friendly Letter

Graphic Organizer C

Graphic Organizer

Introduction (*greet the person to whom you are writing the letter to and tell the reason why you are writing*)

Main body of the letter (*now give full details to your main purpose for writing!*)

Conclusion (*Now what? What will your reader do now? What do you wish for you and the reader?*)

Speaker 1

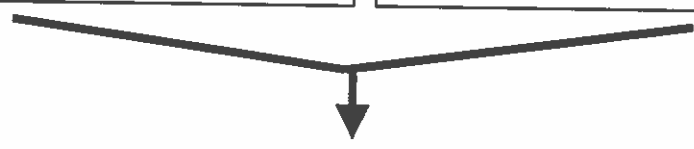
Speaker 2

A graphic organizer template for a dialogue between two speakers. It features a large rounded rectangle containing six speech bubbles and a "Send" button. The speech bubbles are arranged in a sequence: Speaker 1 (top), Speaker 2 (bottom), Speaker 1 (top), Speaker 2 (bottom), Speaker 1 (top), and Speaker 2 (bottom). Each bubble contains three horizontal lines for text. The "Send" button is located at the bottom right of the organizer.

Compare and Contrast Chart Graphic Organizer

Item #1 _____

Item #2 _____



How are they alike?

Four horizontal lines for writing the similarities between the two items.

How are they different?



Eight horizontal lines for writing the differences between the two items.

Eight horizontal lines for writing the differences between the two items.

Asking Questions - Bloom's Taxonomy

Knowledge	Comprehension	Application
<p>What happened after ...? How many ...? Who was it that ...? Describe What happened at ...? Who spoke to ...? Can you tell me who ...? Find the meaning of ...? What is ...? Which is true or false ...?</p>	<p>Can you write in your own words ...? Write a brief outline ... What do you think could have happened next ...? Who do you think ...? What was the main idea? Who was the main character? Can you distinguish between ...? What differences exist between ...? Can you provide an example of what you mean by ...? Can you provide a definition for ...?</p>	<p>Do you know another instance where ...? Could this have happened in ...? What factors would you change if ...? Can you apply the method used to some experience of your own ...? What questions would you ask of ...? From the information given, develop a set of instructions about ...? Would this information be useful if you had a ...?</p>
Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
<p>Which event could not have happened if ...? If ... happened, what might the ending have been? How was this similar to ...? What was the underlying theme of ...? What do you see as other possible outcomes? Why did ... changes occur? What must have happened when ...? How is ... similar to ...? What are some problems of ...? Can you distinguish between ...? What was the turning point of the story? What were some of the motives behind ...?</p>	<p>Can you design a ... to ...? What is a possible solution to ...? What would happen if ...? If you had access to all resources, how would you deal with ...? How would you devise your own way to ...? How many ways can you ...? Can you create new and unusual uses for ...? Can you develop a proposal which would ...? How would you compose a song about ...?</p>	<p>Is there a better solution to ...? Judge the value of ...? Defend your position about ...? Do you think ... is a good or bad thing? Explain. How would you have handled ...? What changes to ... would you recommend? Why? Do you believe ...? Are you a ... person? Why? How would you feel if ...? How effective is ...? What do you think about ...?</p>

Synthesizing - So What? Book Review

Text: _____

What text did you read? What was it about? What was the author's message?

Who would you recommend this book to? Why?

So What? Now that you have read this book, how will your life be different? What does it motivate you to want to do?