

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

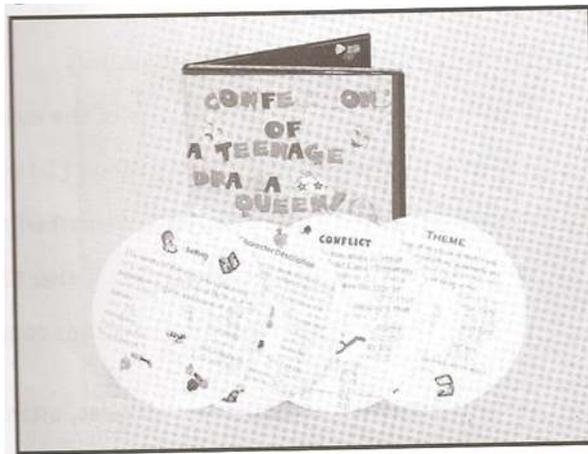
Required Reading: *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff

Today's middle school classrooms are more complex than ever before. Students must work towards specific objectives. Creative projects go beyond the narrow scope of the traditional book report. These projects allow students freedom of expression. They provide a concrete and visual way for each student to explore the novel in depth. These projects will engage your child as he or she demonstrates his or her knowledge of literary elements such as plot, character, setting, and theme in fiction. The following project helps students to synthesize information of large concepts into smaller pieces in visual and concrete ways. It provides opportunities for students to work in various media. Instead of tending to point to one "correct" answer, a project encourages critical and creative thinking. Best of all, the learning sticks. Because projects actively engage students, learning becomes fun. As writer Alfred Mercier once said, "What we learn with pleasure, we never forget."

You are required to read the above book during the summer break. In addition to reading, you must complete the project listed below. **Be creative!** Your project should be **neat, well-organized, and attractive**. Use the following rubric to make sure that you have included all required elements. Your project is due the first day of school. During the first weeks of school, we will be discussing the book in depth and completing activities based on the events of the story. **You will also be tested on the book at the beginning of the school year.**

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### Literary Elements CDs



In this project you will design five CDs—both front and back—that illustrate the five literary elements in a short story or novel.

**Directions:**

1. Use a CD/DVD as a template to cut out 5 circles the size of CD. The circle must have a hole in the center to fit in a CD case.

**First CD:**

2. Label the first CD "Character." Describe a character in the story on one side.
3. Draw an illustration that represents that character on the opposite side.

**Second CD:**

4. The second CD will be labeled "Setting." On this CD, describe a setting from the story and draw an illustration on the opposite side.

**Third CD:**

5. The third CD will be labeled "Conflict" on one side and "Resolution" on the other.
6. Write about a specific conflict on one side and provide an illustration. On the other side, explain the resolution and provide an illustration.

**Fourth CD:**

7. The fourth CD will be labeled "Plot" and will consist of a description of the major events of the story on one side and an illustration on the other.

**Fifth CD:**

8. The final CD will be labeled "Theme." On one side, describe a theme in the story and illustrate the theme on the other side. A theme is a lesson about life that the main character learns during the course of the novel.

**Front Cover:**

9. Provide the title and author of the story, the genre, and an illustration on the cover of the case.

**Back Cover:**

10. Write a review of the book. The review should be 150-200 words. Write your name on the back of the case.
11. You can do the front/back cover on a sheet of white drawing paper cut to fit the outside of the case and paste it on. Place the CDs inside the CD case. (A DVD or video game case can be used instead)

**Rubric for Comprehension CDs:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Front of CD case has title, author, genre, illustration; back cover includes a review and your name  
(10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Character CD description includes character's physical attributes, personality, behavior, thoughts and feelings; illustrated and labeled (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Setting CD describes setting with vivid vocabulary; illustrated and labeled (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Conflict/Resolution described; CD illustrated and labeled "Conflict" on one side and "Resolution" on the other (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Plot CD describes important events that occur; illustrated and labeled (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Theme is clearly stated; CD illustrated and labeled "Theme" (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct spelling, usage, punctuation, capitalization, complete sentences (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Creativity (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Neatness (5 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ FINAL GRADE/50