

***The Shakespeare Stealer* by Gary Blackwood**

Skills: plot line, characterization, and vocabulary development

Assignment #1: Reporting for *The Shakespeare Stealer*

Write the following on loose leaf paper:

1. Write the title and author of the book
2. Characterization:
 - a. List the main characters. Write a brief description of each character.
 - b. Create a character map for Widge or Falconer. You must use passages (a minimum of six) from the book to support your description. You should look at the physical description of the character, the thoughts and actions of the character, and the thoughts and actions of others which describe character.
3. As you read, take notes on the plot of the story. Remember the parts of the plot: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
4. You are reading a piece of historical fiction. List seven pieces of information you learned about the novel's historical period.
5. Create a graphic organizer which highlights the internal and external conflicts the protagonist faces.

The notes are due on the first day of school. This information is very important. It will be used to do a variety of assignments in class.

Assignment #2: My Word Puzzles

As you read *The Shakespeare Stealer*, look for the vocabulary words on the attached list. Select any ten from the list. Using the selected vocabulary words, create your word puzzles. Look below for the correct format and a puzzle. Be sure to copy the sample sentence and the page where it is found. When you return, the class will use the vocabulary words in activities.

** You may write in cursive or print your word puzzles.

Succumbed
Incredulously
Innocuous
Pensive
Squalid
Sumptuously
Tenaciously
Incantation
Deluge
Derisive
Furtively

Perilous
Sullen
Contemptuously
Askew
Melancholy
Prodigious
Careening
Civility
Contemplating
Copious

***Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings**

Skills: Symbolism and Theme

1. As you read *Red Kayak* take notes on the plot line. You will have a reading comprehension test the first week of school.
2. Select two of the items below and discuss their symbolism in *Red Kayak*. (Remember that a symbol is something that represents something else.) You should use specific passages in the book to help you. Doing this will help you support your answer.
 - a. the weather
 - b. butterfly garden
 - c. red kayak
3. Theme is the underlying message woven throughout a piece of literary work—we know this. ☺ Look at the four passages listed below and write a well-written paragraph which demonstrates your knowledge of this central theme.
 - a. I thought I'd wake up feeling relieved the next morning. Like a weight had been taken off my shoulders because of the action I'd finally taken. But it didn't start out that way...I wondered...whether it was something I just had to get used to first, like a new haircut. *Chapter twenty-one, page 139*
 - b. "My mother—your grandma Ellen—she used to say to me, "Tommy, if you know right from wrong, then the answer is always right there, smack in front of you. It's when you get to thinkin' on it that you get in trouble. Because doin' what's right is not always the easiest thing'." *Chapter twenty-two, page 162*
 - c. "It's just that sometimes," he said, "even when the right answer is smack in front of you, you got to reach deep inside yourself to act on it. You know what I'm sayin." *Chapter twenty-two, page 163.*
 - d. We looked at each other, and Dad said, "You done the right thing today, Brady." Then Dad put his arm around my shoulders, and we walked together. *Chapter twenty-four, page 181.*

sample sentence:

*I clung
tenaciously to
the saddle
frame and
kicked my
assailant, but
it was no use.
Chapter 2*

definition:

1. persistent in maintaining or seeking something valued or desired 2. not easily pulled apart

SYNONYM:

Persistent
Cohesive
Retentive

ANTONYM:

Lackluster
Fragmented

10 copies needed

