

May 16, 2024

6th grade Summer Reading Information

Happy Summer!!!

In this packet you will find a Middle School supply list and summer reading packet. Incoming 6th graders will read "Any Small Goodness" by Tony Johnston. This is a great book for 6th graders. It's about a 12 year old boy "Arturo" that has recently moved to the "barrios" of Los Angeles. Along with his friends and family, they go through many trials and experiences that help them to grow individually and as a community. This book is a wonderful book about adapting to changes, persevering through hard times and growing spiritually and relationally.

It's recommended that students read each chapter, reference the glossary in the back of the text to accurately understand the word meanings (there are many spanish words), and complete the handouts for the chapter after reading it. Often students will read the book entirely and then complete the handouts. That is not the best or most effective way of gaining full comprehension of the text.

Upon returning to school after summer break, students will turn in the summer reading packet on the 1st full day of school. They will also take a reading comprehension test over the book on the 2nd full day of school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at sweakley@tiptonchristianacademy.com. I look forward to seeing the kids in August and hearing all about their summer adventures!!

Thanks so much,

Stephanie Weakley
Tipton Christian Academy
Middle School Reading/ History Teacher

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

“American Names” - “Corn Fungus”

Multiple Choice

1. In “American Names,” Arturo and his friends feel upset because their teacher Miss Pringle:

- (a) Keeps them in from recess.
- (b) Gives a pop quiz.
- (c) Changes their names.
- (d) Is strict and boring.

2. Huitla, the cat, runs away from home when:

- (a) Papi swats her with a broom.
- (b) A large dog chases her down the alley.
- (c) Luis forgets to feed her for the third time.
- (d) Mega Mango practices loudly in the garage.

Short Answer

3. Explain how Huitla is found. Use at least two details from the book in your answer.

Long Answer

4. How does spending time with Arturo’s Abuelita change his friends? What do you think is the cause of this change?

**A Little
Extra!**

At the end of “Corn Fungus,” Papi talks about Leo Love saying, “When no eyes are upon him, that is a person’s true test.” What does Papi’s quote mean to you?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

“American Names” - “Corn Fungus”

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| vigorously • | • done formally, with a serious tone |
| solemn • | • make a bad feeling go away or lessen |
| desolate • | • full of sadness or loneliness |
| ecstatic • | • extremely happy or excited |
| immaculate • | • with force and energy |
| assuage • | • perfectly neat and clean |

Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

vigorously solemn desolate ecstatic immaculate assuage

1. Emma’s _____ mood melted away as soon as she saw her parents.
2. David _____ shook the soda can in hopes that it would explode.
3. After her dog died, adopting a new puppy helped _____ Tia’s grief.
4. Rick’s _____ locker had all his books stacked neatly to the side.
5. The soldiers marched in a _____ line and laid wreaths on the graves of their comrades.
6. I was _____ when I won concert tickets to see my favorite band.

**A Little
Extra!**

Choose three Spanish words from “Corn Fungus.” Explain what each word means or what you think it means based on context clues.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

“The Coach” - “Piano Lessons”

Multiple Choice

1. How much time passes between the first two chapters and “The Coach”?

- (a) Two months.
- (b) Three years.
- (c) Seven weeks.
- (d) 24 hours.

2. What do Arturo and his family do for Mami for Valentine’s Day?

- (a) Cook a three-course meal for the family.
- (b) Paint rows of stone on the front of the house.
- (c) Surprise her with roses and chocolates.
- (d) Sing a song to her.

Short Answer

3. Who is Coach Tree? What do the players think of him?

Long Answer

4. What do you think Coach Tree, Mama Dulce, and the immigrants in the big truck have in common? Use at least three details from the story to explain your answer.

**A Little
Extra!**

There are many examples in these chapters of characters helping others. Think about your own life. Describe a time when you or someone you know helped others.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

“The Coach” - “Piano Lessons”

Which Word?

On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

listless	emblemized	stupefied	skeptical	emulate	homage
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1. Something done to show respect; a tribute. _____
2. Decorated or marked with a symbol. _____
3. Having or expressing doubt about something. _____
4. Having a lack of energy or spirit. _____
5. To imitate, especially as a role-model. _____
5. Shocked and surprised. _____

Making Sentences

Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Listless: _____
2. Emblemized: _____
3. Stupefied: _____
4. Skeptical: _____
5. Emulate: _____
6. Homage: _____

A simile is a comparison of two things using the word 'like' or 'as.' For example, "you are as bright as the sun." Find an example of a simile from this section and write it below!

A Little Extra!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

“The River” - “The Band”

Multiple Choice

1. Why does Ms. Cloud suddenly disappear from the school library?

- (a) She has no documentation.
- (b) She gets a higher-paying job.
- (c) She refuses to work anymore.
- (d) She steals books from the library.

2. Who interrupts Mega Mango’s music set at the dance?

- (a) A group of angry teachers.
- (b) The local police.
- (c) A neighborhood gang.
- (d) The school superintendent.

Short Answer

3. Why do you think Ms. Cloud keeps her true identity a secret?

Long Answer

4. Explain Arturo’s thoughts at the end of “The Band.” Why is his attitude so hopeless? Use at least one example from the chapter in your answer.

**A Little
Extra!**

What consequences might follow Mega Mango’s reaction to the gang?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

“The River” - “The Band”

Match Up

A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. For example, happy and joyful are synonyms. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms!

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| resplendent • | • heartlessness, cruelty |
| fiendish • | • evil, wicked |
| boisterous • | • conflicts, arguments |
| barbarity • | • lively, excited |
| lenience • | • mercy, compassion |
| confrontations • | • magnificent, brilliant |

Best Word

Circle the word which works best in each sentence.

1. The (boisterous / fiendish) crook grabbed the woman’s purse and ran down the street.
2. The rich colors of the peacock’s feathers are (resplendent / fiendish) in the sunshine.
3. After I broke a window, my parents showed me no (lenience / barbarity). They grounded me for two whole weeks!
4. There were so many (lenience / confrontations) during the soccer game that our gym teacher called it off and had us run laps instead.
5. The (confrontations / barbarity) of the living conditions at the run-down zoo was shocking to the animal welfare workers.
6. At the hockey game, the (boisterous / resplendent) crowd cheered wildly whenever their team scored a goal.

A Little Extra!

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. Make a list of antonyms for the vocabulary word *boisterous*.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

“The Lunch Box” - The Green Needle Gang”

Multiple Choice

1. During the attack on Arturo’s home, what symbol of innocence is completely destroyed?

- (a) Rosa’s favorite doll.
- (b) Rosa’s domino set.
- (c) Rosa’s lucky stones.
- (d) Rosa’s pink lunchbox.

2. How is Arturo feeling when the police arrive following the shooting?

- (a) Angry and distrustful.
- (b) Relieved and grateful.
- (c) Horrified and fearful.
- (d) Forgiving and graceful.

Short Answer

3. What is the Green Needle Gang? What do they do?

Long Answer

4. At the end of “The Lunch Box,” Papi says, “If you do not find enough of the good, you must yourself create it...any small goodness is of value.” Explain Papi’s quote. Do you agree or disagree with it? Share your opinion and support it with examples.

A Little Extra!

Create two lists of words that describe your emotions while reading. In the first list, write down three adjectives that describe your feelings when Arturo’s home is attacked. In the second list, write down three adjectives that describe how you felt while reading about the Green Needle Gang’s work.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

“The Lunch Box” - The Green Needle Gang

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| commemoration • | • dirty or disgusting; repulsive |
| stealthy • | • height |
| brooding • | • sneaky; secretive in action or character |
| groady • | • having to do with the heavens or divinity |
| stature • | • thinking deeply about unhappy things |
| celestial • | • a ceremony or item intended to memorialize an event or person |

Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

commemoration stealthy brooding groady stature celestial

1. The _____ old sweatshirt had holes in the sleeves, a ripped cuff, and stains.
2. Many believe that after death, people’s souls ascend to a _____ paradise.
3. During study hall, I was _____ over how to tell my parents I failed the test.
4. My family received a plaque in _____ of my Grandpa’s military service.
5. The _____ fox crept through the tall grass toward an unsuspecting rabbit.
6. You must have a _____ of at least five feet to ride this roller coaster.

A Little Extra!

When you think of the word *celestial*, what other words come to mind? Make a list!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

“Christmas Presents”

Multiple Choice

1. Arturo explains that Christmas is not only a time of giving, but a time of:

- (a) Sleeping.
- (b) Eating.
- (c) Relaxing.
- (d) Playing.

2. One tradition Arturo and his family have is making tons of tamales and:

- (a) Donating them to a homeless shelter.
- (b) Sitting down to a huge family feast.
- (c) Giving them to friends and neighbors.
- (d) Sending them to soldiers overseas.

Short Answer

3. How does the Rodriguez family celebrate Navidad?

Long Answer

4. What does Arturo receive as his gift? Why is it significant to him? Use at least two details from the story in your answer.

Compare your holiday traditions to Arturo's. How are they similar? How are they different?

**A Little
Extra!**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

“Christmas Presents”

Which Word?

On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

simultaneously slinking perplexed brittle flamboyant exuberance

1. Brightly colored; eye-catching. _____
2. Moving in a sneaky way. _____
3. Very confused; puzzled. _____
4. Being full of energy and enthusiasm. _____
5. Hard, but easy to break. _____
6. At the same time. _____

Making Sentences

Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Simultaneously: _____
2. Slinking: _____
3. Perplexed: _____
4. Brittle: _____
5. Flamboyant: _____
6. Exuberance: _____

Describe a time you felt *perplexed*.

**A Little
Extra!**
