

Summer Reading ~ 6th Grade

I. Fiction **Stella by Starlight**

Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are pleasant. Others are a lot less so. One late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

Please read the attached questions before starting the novel and answer them on a separate document. These responses are due on Monday, August 16, 2021.

II. Non-fiction **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind**

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world. Complete with photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue that will bring readers up to date on William's story, this is the perfect edition to read and share with the whole family.

The Young Readers' edition is recommended. Complete the (attached) nonfiction form; please bring this paperwork to class on Monday, August 16, 2021.

Stella by Starlight *Discussion Questions*

1. Describe Stella's parents. How would you describe the relationship between the parents and the children?
2. Why does Stella sneak out at night? What does she keep in her hidden cigar box and why?
3. Why is a visit from Spoon Man a reason for excitement in the town? Describe Spoon Man and his wagon and his effect on the community.
4. Describe the voting registration. How do you think Stella felt throughout the ordeal? What do you think she learned from that experience?
5. Do you think Stella is a hero? Explain. How does she feel about what she did*? How does the community show their pride? (*the Spencer house fire)
6. How do you think the typewriter changed Stella's attitude about and ability with writing?
7. How does the community come together on Election Day? Do you think the vote from Stella's father made a difference? Explain.
8. How does Mrs. Odom save the day? Why is it surprising? What more do you learn about the concept of "community" because of what she did?
9. What problems does Paulette face at home? What is surprising about Paulette's revelations?
10. Describe the humorous parts of the Christmas play. Why is it a good place for the story to end?

*The church seems to be an important institution in the community, yet some of the members say phrases like "lordy, lordy" which can be considered taking the Lord's name in vain. Also, the doctor in the white community (Dr. Packard) is not a caring man. Think about how appearances can be deceiving and how people's actions reflect their beliefs. Be ready to discuss when school resumes in the fall.

Nonfiction Book Report

Title: _____

Author's Name(s): _____

Publisher: _____

Place & date of publication: _____

In complete sentences, explain eight facts that you learned from the book.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Describe **two** strengths (reasons why you liked the book) and weaknesses (areas for change) of the book.

1. _____
2. _____

1. _____
2. _____

How is the title related to the content of the book?

Does the book seem to be completely factual, or do you suspect that some fiction (not real) material has been included? Explain.

What three questions would you ask the author(s) if you could meet him/her? *This should be something that has not already been answered in the book!*

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----

What kinds of illustrations or cover art is used in your book? How did they help you to understand the book? If there were no illustrations, do you think they should be added? Why or why not?

List and define 5 new words you learned from this book. Then, use each in a sentence.

1. _____ : _____

2. _____ : _____

3. _____ : _____

4. _____ : _____

5. _____ : _____

