

Dumont Public Schools

Entry to English 7

Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: Friday, September 14th, 2018

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is hard to believe the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year is here. We are very proud of your child’s accomplishments and the academic growth that they have made.

This year, students going into seventh grade in September will be reading *The Cay*, a novel by Theodore Taylor, which follows a young boy on a coming of age journey, full of adventure, excitement, and compassion. Please encourage your child to read additional books that he/she finds interesting and enjoyable. Research supports the fact that students who read over the summer are more likely to maintain or improve upon their reading skills. The most important thing is that students read, read, read!

Incoming seventh graders will complete a reading guide and a writing prompt to accompany *The Cay* by **Friday, September 14th, 2018**. You may purchase this book at the Barnes & Noble in Paramus or Hackensack; they have been notified of our summer reading assignments. Another option is to borrow/request the book through the public library system (BCCLS). Please allow ample time for these requests. Please contact your child’s school if you would like to borrow a copy.

The seventh grade teachers are looking forward to working with you and your child next year. Please return the tear-off below to acknowledge your receipt of this assignment and have your child return it to his/her language arts teacher by the end of the year.

Enjoy your summer, and we will see you in September!

Sincerely,  
The Seventh Grade ELA Teachers

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7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment (1 Homework Grade and 1 Writing Grade)

“I understand the requirements of the summer assignment due on Friday, September 14th, 2018.”

Child’s Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Current ELA Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Cay Study Guide

**Directions:** Assignment should be typed. All responses should be in **C – E – R** format (see below for review).

## Claim Evidence Reasoning

**Claim** = the **answer** to the question. Make sure you restate the question in your answer.

**Evidence** = what you use from the **text to support your answer**. An example of a stem (sentence starter) “**In the text, it states...**”(make sure you put the author’s words in quotation marks).

**Reasoning** = explaining **WHY** your evidence supports the claim you made. This can include anecdotal stories or information that strengthens your answer. A stem could be **this means/this shows...**

1. Each of the following incidents or events play a significant role in the novel.

**Explain why** each is important. How does the event affect the character(s)? What does it tell you about the character(s)? **Your answers must be 3-4 complete sentences.**

- a. The *Empire Tern* explodes
- b. Timothy slaps Phillip
- c. Phillip climbs the palm tree
- d. Timothy gets malaria
- e. Black smoke

2. Identify the speaker for each of the following quotes. Then **explain** what is meant by the quote. **When** does the character say this? **Why** does the character say this? **What** does this tell you about the character or theme of this novel? **Your answers must be 3-4 complete sentences.**

- a. “There’s no place nice and safe right now.”
- b. “Why b’feesh different color, or flowers b’ different color?”
- c. “Timothy, are you still black?”
- d. “You won’t believe what’s up there.”
- e. “I’m sorry, I’m so sorry.”

3. **Open-Ended Question**

Several times in the story Timothy does not tell Phillip the complete truth about something that occurs during their time together.

- Give at least **TWO** examples of when Timothy does this.
- Explain **WHY** Timothy makes these choices.
- If you were Phillip, would you want to know the complete truth about your situation? Explain WHY or WHY NOT.