

June 2017

Dear Incoming Fifth Grade Student,

During your summer vacation you are required to read five (5) books from the following list. Be prepared to discuss the stories and write about them in the fall. For one book that you have selected, you must fill out the attached note-taking guide for **each chapter** in the book. Please see the example on the next page explaining how to complete the guide. I have attached sixteen guides to this letter; however, if there are more chapters in your book, please make additional copies. You must bring your completed note-taking guide with you to turn in on the first day of school.

Adventures in reading can last a lifetime. Enjoy!

- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg
- *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh
- *Frindle* by Andrew Clements

\*Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page to your current teacher by:

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

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My child, \_\_\_\_\_, will read five books during the summer from the above list.

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Parent Name

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Parent Signature

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Sarah, Plain and Tall** **Sample Note-Taking Chart: Chapter One**

To help you keep track of your reading, you will be taking notes using a chart like the one below. The chart below has been completed for Chapter One.

### **NOTE-TAKING Tips:**

1. Do not copy word-for-word out of your text. Instead, rewrite in your OWN words.
2. Choose only the most important information to write down—ask yourself “What is MOST important?”
3. Except for the summary, do not write using complete sentences—a few words that get the point across will do!

**Who are the MOST IMPORTANT (main) characters in this chapter?**

*Caleb, Anna, Papa (Jacob)*

**Describe the setting (where the action takes place) of this chapter:**

*In the house at dusk. It is cold enough that they need a fire in the fireplace. Winter is nearly over, and there are patches of snow and ice on the ground.*

**Give 2-3 things we learn about each MAIN character in this chapter.**

*Caleb—younger brother, did not know his mom (she died three days after he was born)  
Anna—older sister, thought her brother was ugly when he was born  
Papa—doesn't sing anymore, put an ad in the paper for a wife and mother to Caleb and Anna*

**Summarize the important events that happen in this chapter.**

*Caleb again asks Anna about his mom and when he was born. He wonders why Papa doesn't sing anymore. That night, he asks Papa why he doesn't sing anymore, and Papa tells Anna and Caleb that he has put an advertisement in the newspaper for a wife and mother. They have received a response from a woman in Maine named Sarah.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Note-Taking Chart: Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

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**Who are the MOST IMPORTANT (main) characters in this chapter?**

**Describe the setting (where the action takes place) of this chapter:**

**Give 2-3 things we learn about each MAIN character in this chapter.**

**Summarize the important events that happen in this chapter.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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