

Fairfield Crossroads and Creekside Middle Schools  
Advanced English Language Arts  
Summer Reading 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to Sixth Grade Advanced Language Arts! We are so excited to begin your new learning experience with you! We love to read and can't wait to help you discover all the characters and the conflicts they face. This summer we are asking you to practice your reading skills by reading the book *Ungifted* by author, Gordon Korman.

We hope you will enjoy reading this funny novel. We have found that reading is a fun activity which allows us to use our minds to explore far-away lands and travel anywhere we can imagine. We can also find friends with whom we can relate. In addition, reading can help us attain new information and hone our thinking skills. Do you think while you read? We do and we want to help you learn to stretch your thoughts even deeper.

The best way to be a great reader is to practice. As great readers, we all think about the plot, characters, setting, vocabulary, and conflict. We ask ourselves questions. We make inferences. We draw conclusions. We make predictions based on what we have read. Annotating text is a useful tool to help you begin thinking about the text you read. Annotating uses simple symbols to represent our thoughts as we read.

*Ungifted* is yours to keep, so you may write directly in your book. If you run out of space, you can always add a *post-it note* for extra writing space anywhere you need it. We have attached some sample annotation marks that you should use when you read *Ungifted*. You may have other thoughts you want to annotate as you read and that's great. This chart is simply a place for you to start.

As you read, use the annotation marks (see next page) appropriately in the text. You may need to read a chapter more than once in order to practice using the annotation marks along with adding your own thoughts. You are required to have at least two annotations per chapter. The annotations you make will be used as "discussion starters" as we begin our learning together in August. **Please bring your annotated book with you on the first day of school. There will be an assessment and/or activities to follow your summer reading during the first weeks of school.**

We hope you enjoy the story and your summer. We look forward to meeting you. Have a wonderful summer break!




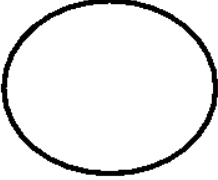

Sincerely,

Your Sixth Grade Advanced Language Arts Teachers

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## Annotation guide:

Use these symbols to mark your thinking in your novel.

This means...	I can mark this with...	And then I can write about this like...
*I make inferences about what the evidence means.		*When the text says..., I think it means... *Based on..., I can infer that...
*I read to clarify my understanding. *I wonder about what I read. *I ask "why."		*Who/What/When/Where...? *I wonder...? *What if...? *Why does...?
*I identify significant details in the text, which I might use as evidence in a discussion or writing assignment about the text.		*This is important because... *My evidence will be... *The key point is...
*I mark the most important words for understanding a text or words I am unfamiliar with.		*Making a note of the importance of the key vocabulary
*I can identify the part of a text where I stopped understanding what it was saying, so that I can then figure out how to get unstuck.		*I am stuck because... *I don't understand... *I am confused by... *I think this means... *I didn't understand..., but I see now that...