



Summer 2019

Dear Incoming 7th Grade Student,

We look forward to you being enrolled in the upcoming school year at Calvary Academy middle school. All students at Calvary Academy from grades 6 through grade 12 are responsible to complete **two book readings** during the summer. You will be writing a critical book review (CBR) of *Among the Hidden* during the first full week of Language Arts class.

Also this year, you may select one of the OPTIONS listed below, for these book names, to present evidence of reading one of these books:

GIRLS CHOICES:	BOYS CHOICES:
<u>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</u> by Elizabeth George Speare	<u>Maniac Magee</u> by Jerry Spinelli
or, Any book from "Dear America" series	or, Any book from the "My Name is America" series
	or, <u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> by Gennifer Cholden

A "Building Blocks of Plot" is attached just as a resource to help you out, this is not something you have to complete.

Option #1:

"Book Report in a Bag": Students read a book, write a summary, get a paper bag, draw a picture/scene for the paper bag, and choose 5 items to be placed in the bag which represent significant points in the novel. Students should use the plot diagram learned in 6th grade class to write the summary. Students should have exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution mentioned in the summary. Then, they decorate a paper grocery bag with a scene from the book, place in the bag five items that represent something from the book, and present the bag to the class. Below is a link where you can see a finished product. It is number 8 in the creative book list.

<https://www.weareteachers.com/creative-book-report-ideas/>

OR

Option#2: Diary :

Create a diary - telling the story, **not** from the main character's perspective but from a minor character's point of view. Example...for Witch of Blackbird Pond you may select Prudence, Hannah, Mercy, Nat, or any other character other than Kit.

Your diary entries must include all the elements of the story, exposition (characters, setting, conflict), rising action, climax, falling action, resolution. This project needs to read like a diary so include a good character description of yourself and the other characters of the story so we can better understand the plot from your character's point of view. You must have a minimum of 10 entries, approx. 7-10 sentences for each entry (single spaced, 11 font, Times New Roman.)

Your project must be turned in by the first Friday of school.

Have a blessed summer.

In His Service,
Stephanie Cruz

SKILL: Understanding Plot

Building Blocks of Plot

Every story is different, but most stories follow a similar pattern. In the exposition, we meet the characters and learn about the setting. Then the plot thickens—the main problem is introduced and things get more complicated during the rising action. The climax of the story happens before things wind down during the falling action. Then comes the resolution, when the problem is straightened out (or not) and the story ends. These different parts of a story are known as “plot points.”

Directions: Each block in the pyramid below is one part of the plot of the story you are reading. In each block, write the answer to the question. When you’re done, you’ll see the main plot points of the story.

