

Tantasqua Regional Junior High School

Summer Reading



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Students are expected to read one required summer reading book. (This is a change from previous years.)

- **7th: *Becoming Naomi León*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan**
- **8th: *Life as We Knew It*, by Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Assessments for summer reading novels will be after Labor Day, in the form of class discussion groups and an objective test.



Both books are available at the local town libraries. Feel free to visit them to check out other books for the summer.

HELPFUL HINTS

- It is sometimes helpful to keep notes on the main characters and the highlights of events in the story to refer to before you take your test.



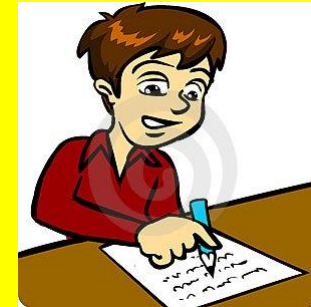
- Use a graphic organizer, a sheet of paper or sticky notes to jot down notes as you read.

Other Things to Consider While You're Reading the Discussion Title:

- What are some of the main themes in the novel?
- What personal connections can you make to the themes in the novel?
- Remember that you will be completing a writing assignment on the book you discuss in class.
- Make sure that you read carefully and pay attention during the class discussion.

Sample Question Grade 7:

- What qualities do you possess that make **you** a good friend? Some examples of good qualities might be:
 - Dependable
 - Trustworthy
 - Honest
 - A good sense of humor
 - Compassionate
 - Generous
 - Cooperative
 - A good listener
- Choose the qualities that best represent you as a friend, and describe how you demonstrated these qualities in your own friendships. Use personal experiences or anecdotes to creatively bring these qualities to life in a well-developed, lively narrative.



Sample Student Response – Grade 7

Judging by how many friends I have, I would say that I'm a pretty good friend. In order to have a friend you have to be a friend, and that means being nice to everyone no matter who they are. Just like the old saying, "You can't judge a book by its cover," you can't judge a person by how they dress or what they look like. It's hard sometimes at my age, but I try to keep a positive outlook on things, and that is how I've met some of my best friends.

I have a good sense of humor. Whenever I am with my friends, we are always laughing, whether I say something funny, or I'm just being silly or even a klutz. One time my friend and I were looking for something in the back of her car and I found it. So, she started to close the trunk and I realized I was missing something. I leaned over and reached to get it, and Wham! I was hit over the head by the door! We laughed and laughed about it. There was another time when I was at a friend's house, and we were playing around and I got my braces stuck to the carpet. It was pretty funny.

I think I am very dependable. My friends can always count on me to do anything for them. I am always giving out advice, although it doesn't always work. I am certainly honest with my friends; I just wouldn't lie to them. If they did ask me something I was uncomfortable telling them, I would just tell them I didn't want to answer their question. I know that I am also a very trustworthy friend because I don't go around telling their secrets. I keep them to myself.

Lastly, I think my most essential quality as a friend is that I am very compassionate. I always give 110% in all that I do and never give up. I support my friends in what they are passionate about as well, and they support me. For example, I go to their important events and they come to my soccer games.

I am really satisfied with all of these traits, and I am very happy to have so many friends. I am a lucky person and although I may not be the perfect friend, I think I've been doing a decent job so far.

Sample Question – Grade 8

- Miranda's family was isolated from the community during the winter. In what ways was this both good and bad? Explain your response using details from the book. What was the decision Miranda faced at the end of *Life As We Knew It*? Explain why this is important.

Sample Student Response –Grade 8

Miranda's family was isolated from everyone during the winter. In a way, that was both good and bad. The good part was that they didn't have to worry about neighbors stealing their supplies or having to share their food with others. They also were able to truly bond as a family. However, they often had nothing to do. They got bored with each other and started resenting the enforced contact. Another bad thing was that they had no one that they could rely on if there was an emergency. They were also so isolated that they didn't know what was going on anywhere else. They had no idea what was happening elsewhere in the country or the world.

At the end of *Life As We Knew It*, Miranda took a chance and went into town. She ended up at city hall, where they were allowed to have a bag of food per person each week. With their food supplies running low, this was very important. It saved them all from starvation and seemed to finally indicate a turn for the better. Although the family's situation was not especially improved, they had food and an indication that someone was trying to handle the situation and make provisions for those who survived. The novel ends with an indication that there is hope for the future.

Writing Rubric- Grades 7 & 8

Expert - Score 4

- The response successfully accomplishes the task. Ideas progress logically; a clear sense of purpose and focus is evident. The response is well-developed, including a topic sentence, with ideas explained and supported through specific ideas and examples, and a conclusion. Sentence structure is correct and varied. Word choice is clear and precise or vivid, and expressive.

Practitioner – Score 3

- The response is reasonably successful in accomplishing the task. Ideas progress logically but may lack focus; minor flaws in organization may appear. The response may not be fully developed or explained. Minor flaws may include a lack of a topic sentence, specific details and/or examples, and a conclusion. A few errors in sentence structure may appear; structures may show little variety. Word choice is appropriate but not vivid, precise, or expressive.

Apprentice – Score 2

- The response is limited in accomplishing the task. Ideas progress logically, but may lack focus; many flaws in organization may appear. The response may not be fully developed or explained. Several errors may include a lack of a topic sentence, specific details and/or examples, and a conclusion. Many errors in sentence structure may appear; structures may show little variety. Word choice is limited or repetitive.

Novice – Score 1

- The response does not successfully accomplish the prompt, or it addresses the task in a severely limited way. Ideas are unclear or confusing; no sense of direction is apparent in the writing. There is a lack of topic sentence, specific details and/or examples, and a conclusion. The response is minimally developed. Sentence structure is flawed and lacks variety. Word choice is limited or unsuitable.

Scoring Guide for Writing Assessment – Conventions

4 points

- Strong control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics • (length and complexity of essay provide opportunity for student to show control of standard English conventions)

3 points

- Errors do not interfere with communication and/or
 - Few errors relative to length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics

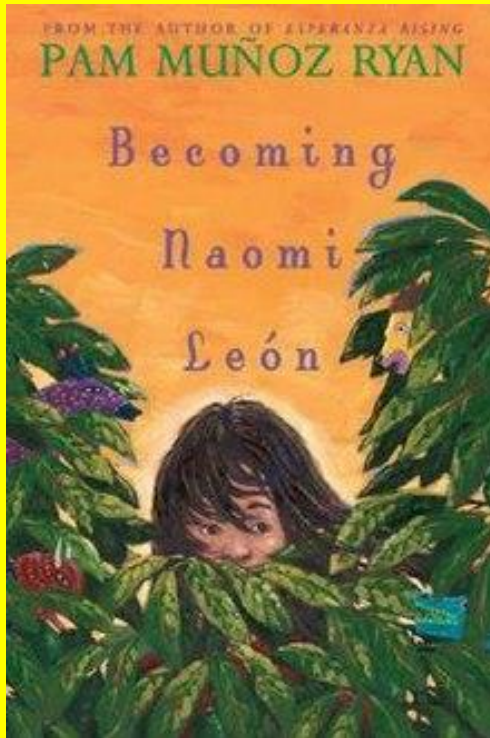
2 points

- Errors interfere somewhat with communication and/or
 - Too many errors relative to the length of the essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics

1 point

- Errors seriously interfere with communication AND
 - Little control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics
- Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special." Discussion groups will take place during English class. Grade 7 Discussion Title

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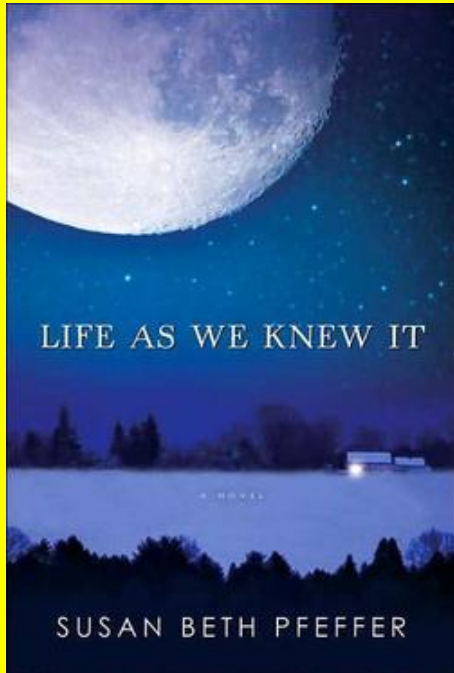
Becoming Naomi León by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special." Naomi's strength and confidence is tested through the novel.

Discussion groups will take place during English class. This novel is used as the introduction to literature circles.

Grade 8 Discussion Title

Life As We Knew It-
by Susan Beth Pfeffer



When an asteroid hits the moon, Miranda must learn to survive the unimaginable. She documents the journey of survival that she and her family are on.

Discussion groups will take place during English class prior to essay writing.