Summer Reading
2019

"Sometimes the bravest thing you can
do is ask for help."

This summer both Riverside Middle School and Martin Middle School will be participating in a One-School-One-Book summer reading assignment. By choosing one book, teachers and students will be able to focus on the theme of being smart in your own way and have a common text to discuss in the new school year.

The required book for all incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will be Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. It is available in paperback from Barrington Books, Amazon, Walmart.com, and the public libraries.

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker.

Summer Reading Assignment:

1. As you read the book, fill in the attached graphic organizer with specific details that address the main characters, setting, central conflict, main events, resolution of the main conflict, and the story’s theme.

2. Choose a line or short passage from the book that is significant or memorable in some way. Quote it and explain why this portion of the text stood out for you. Include the speaker and page number for this example.

In the fall:
- You will be given a multiple-choice test on the main events of the book.
- You will participate in a book talk in your English class.
- Your graphic organizer will be collected.
**PART ONE**

**Characters**  
Describe these people with specific details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ally Nickerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Setting**

| Time:  
| Place(s):  

**Conflicts**

| What is Ally’s main struggle in the book?  
| What difficulties does Ally have in her home life?  

**Inciting Incident**

| What happens to bring Mr. Daniels into Ally’s life at the beginning of the book?  

**Rising Action**

| Describe three important events that happen with Ally.  
| 1.  
| 2.  
| 3.  

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**Directions:** As you read, complete this graphic organizer with specific information from the book. For **Part Two**, choose a memorable line or passage from the text, quote it, and explain why it stood out for you. Include the page number.
| Rising Action (Continued) | Tell about two subplots involving other characters in the book.  
1.  
2.  |
|---|---|
| Climax | What do you think is the highest point of excitement or emotion for Ally? Why?  
---|
| Falling Action | Tell about an important event that happens AFTER the high point of the story.  
---|
---|
| Theme | What is the main message being expressed in the book? Explain.  
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**Part Two: Quote It!**  
As you read, choose a line or passage from the book that stands out to you as important or memorable in some way. **Quote it exactly** (with speaker and page number) and explain why it is **meaningful**.

**Quoted Line/Passage:**

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**Who said it:** _______________________________  
**Page:** __________

**Explanation:**

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