

# **JSTEM**

## **6th Grade Pre-AP/TAG Summer Reading Information**

Due: August 18, 2023

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP/GT English Parents and Students:

Welcome to Pre-AP/ TAG ELAR! We are so excited to meet all of you next year. Attached is your summer reading assignment, as well as notes for making annotations as you read. Please read through each handout very carefully and email one of the contact persons listed below if you have any questions. It is imperative that you allow yourself enough time to thoroughly read your chosen novel. The assignment will be graded as a homework grade and used for the first 3 weeks of instruction. The novel will also be used in class to do a class project. Students should expect to have a test over the novel, as well.

Your signature on our roster for the JSTEM welcoming meeting indicates your accountability to complete this assignment with complete honor.

We look forward to meeting you in person.

Sincerely,

JSTEM 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP/GT ELAR Teacher

<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Campus/District Teachers</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>JSTEM – 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELAR Teacher</b>	<b>Za’Nisha Greenwood</b>	<a href="mailto:zgreenwood@judsonisd.org">zgreenwood@judsonisd.org</a>
<b>JSTEM</b>	<b>Meghann Latimer Department Chair</b>	<a href="mailto:mlatimer@judsonisd.org">mlatimer@judsonisd.org</a>

## Step 1: Choose one of the four novels from the list below to read.

1. **The Outsiders** by S.E. Hinton (on the JISD approved reading list)
2. **Inside Out & Back Again** by Thanhha Lai
3. **The Watsons go to Birmingham** by Christopher Paul Curtis (on the JISD approved reading list)
4. **Loser** by Jerry Spinelli (on the JISD approved reading list)

## Summary of novels:

**The Outsiders** is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider.

**Inside Out & Back Again** For all the ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, Hà discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food . . . and the strength of her very own family.

This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four starred reviews, including one from Kirkus which proclaimed it "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny." An author's note explains how and why Thanhha Lai translated her personal experiences into Hà's story.

**The Watsons go to Birmingham**, The Newbery Honor-winning American classic, enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Momma and Dad decide it's time for a visit to Grandma, Dad comes home with the amazing Ultra-Glide, and the Watsons set out on a trip like no other. They're heading South to Birmingham, Alabama, toward one of the darkest moments in America's history.

**Loser**, Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip."

Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."

### Where to find the novels:

1. Your public library
2. Half-Price Books
3. Barnes and Noble ([www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) )

### Step 2:

Annotate (make notes and write your thoughts and analysis) in the novel as you read. To annotate you should select passages in your novel using brackets, highlighting, underlining, and then, in the margins or on post-it notes, write an explanation or analysis of the selected passage and how it is connected to one of the topics in the table below.

If you are unable to purchase the novel, please write your notes on a separate sheet of paper or a journal, which must include the quotes, page numbers, and annotations. These papers should be stapled together if they are written on loose leaf paper. You should have **AT LEAST 20 QUALITY annotations, 5 from each category (text-to-text, text-to-world, characterization, and conflict).**

Your annotations should address the following:	
Annotation Type :	Guiding Questions/Statements to help you
<p><b>5 Text-to-Text connections</b> – how the specific events in the novel connect/relate to other literature that you have read; should have quotation marks (“ ”).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can I connect to: Novel, Short Story, Poem, Article, Advertisement, Movie, Show (on television or internet) , Play, comic, Blog, Song.</li><li>• <b>Make sure you have 5 text to text connections.</b></li></ul>	<p>How is this text similar to other things I've read? How is this different from other books I've read?</p>

<p><b>5 Text-to-World Connections</b> – how the specific events in the novel connect/relate to the world events. <u>Remember that text-to-world connections are not the same as text-to-self</u>; text-to-world connections should not be about your personal life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make sure you have 5 text to world connects.</b></li> </ul>	<p>How is this text similar to things that happen in world events? How is this different from things that happen in world events? How did that part relate to world events?</p>
<p><b>5 Characterization</b> – how the writer reveals the character’s personality [appearance, dialogue, thoughts, feelings, interactions with other characters]. Your annotations should comment on what is revealed about the character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make sure you have 5 characterization notes.</b></li> </ul>	<p>When (character) says....., it reveals that he/she is....          What causes the character to change throughout the novel?          What do the character’s actions reveal about his/her personality?          How would you describe a character’s interaction or relationship with another character?          Why does the character think a certain way about.....</p>
<p><b>5 Conflict</b> – the struggles/problems the character(s) undergo throughout the novel [external and internal]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make sure you have identified 5 conflicts within your novel.</b></li> </ul>	<p>What problems does the character face and how does he/she deal with them?          This is a major conflict for (character) because</p>

### Grading Rubric for Annotations:

#### Literary Elements

	Level “A” (90-100 Points)	Level “B” (80-89 Points)	Level “C” (70-79 Points)	Level “D” (50-69 Points)
<b>Selected Questions of Passages</b>	Quotations and passages are selected that are <u>clearly</u> connected to the topics for annotation: text-to-text, text-to-world, characterization, or conflict.	Quotations and passages are selected that are <u>mostly</u> connected to the topics for annotation: text-to-text, text-to-world, characterization, or conflict.	Quotations and passages are selected that <u>somewhat</u> connected to the topics for annotation: text-to-text, text-to-world, characterization, or conflict.	Quotations and passages that are selected are <u>vaguely</u> connected to the topics for annotation: text-to-text, text-to-world, characterization, or conflict.

<b>Explanations</b>	The student <u><b>clearly explains</b></u> a specific connection, characterization, or conflict they see in the selected passage or quote.	The student <u><b>explains</b></u> the connection, characterization, or conflict they see in the selected passage or quote, <u><b>but the explanation or connection is too general.</b></u>	The student <u><b>somewhat</b></u> explains the connection, characterization, or conflict they see in the selected passage or quote, <u><b>but the explanation or connection is vague or unclear.</b></u>	The student <u><b>does not explain</b></u> the connection, characterization, or conflict they see in the selected passage or quote.
<b>Presentation of Annotations</b>	Neat, organized, follows directions	Neat and readable. Follow directions.	Some portions are hard to read. Some directions not followed	Unprofessional presentation that is hard to read. Fails to follow most directions.

### Annotation Requirements and Examples

You can write your annotation notes in a **journal**, **type it**, **write in a book**, or on **sticky notes in the book**.

### Sticky or Writing in Book Notes

If you write on a sticky note or in the book remember to include the following:

- Underline or Highlight the lines in the book that you will annotate about
- **Your name in the book and on EACH STICKY**
- Type of annotation on the page or on EACH STICKY
- Your explanation on the page or on EACH STICKY
- Sticky note: page # on EACH STICKY

### Journal or Typing Notes

If you writing annotations in a journal or typing it remember to include the following for EACH entry:

- **You name in the journal or on all Typed Pages**
- Title of the book

- Type of annotation
- Page number you're writing the annotation on
- "Quote"
- Your explanation

## **Example of Annotations**

Example of a Conflict annotation:

Name: Ashtine Elliott  
Type of Annotation: Conflict  
Page #: 20

Explanation: The problem the mother faces is that they're running low on money ,so she gets a job.

Example of a Text-to –Text Annotation:

Name: Ashtine Elliott  
Type of Annotation: Text to Text  
Page #: 5

Explanation: This reminds me of the book Junie B. Jones because she got mad when she received homework on the first day of school.

Example of Text-to-World Annotation:

Name: Ashtine Elliott  
Type of Annotation: Text to World  
Page #: 34

Explanation: Walk Two Moons reminds me of the real world like when a parent leaves a child behind or dies.

Example of a characterization Annotation:

“ No, no,” Jen said Impatiently. **“ I don't care about the carpet. It's just that Mom and Dad will know, and when they don't see I have any cuts - “** page 30 from the **book Among the Hidden**

Name: Ashtine Elliott  
Type of Annotation: Characterization  
Page #: 50

Explanation: This sentence shows that Jen is smart, cunning, and would do anything to protect a third child.