

7th Grade GT
Summer Reading Assignment

Some of you may wonder why you have to do a project over the summer. Do not worry! You will have the whole summer to complete the project and enjoy your vacation! The novel that you are reading deals with historical topics that will be discussed at the beginning of the year. You will find that this particular novel deals with a significant time during East Texas history. As you are reading, try to do a little background research on the time. If you have grown up here, your parents will have a clear recollection of what happened. In order to be fully prepared for assignments, essays, projects, discussions with the author, and a field trip to the museum dedicated to this event, it is essential to complete this reading assignment.

- On the second day of school (Tuesday, August 23, 2016), this assignment will be collected from you.
- Please keep the completed assignments in a 1-inch binder labeled, *Finding Heroes* Novel Assignments.
- Please type your answers in Arial, 12 point font. (I understand that some of you may not have a computer, so if you must write your answers by hand, please do so neatly and clearly.)
- Spelling and punctuation count!
- You must do this assignment on your own. Your answers should not sound like any other student's answers!

When you are finished, double check to make sure you have everything. Your binder should include the following:

- A one page summary of your interview
- A completed Venn diagram
- A dialectical journal consisting of 28 entries
- 10 questions for the author

Have a wonderful summer break! I look forward to meeting you in August! We are going to have an awesome school year! ☺

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Before Reading

1. Interview someone in your community (family, neighbors, etc.) who remembers the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003. Write a one page summary of your discussion.

2. Listen to the audio clip, and read the article titled “Columbia Disaster” on the following site.

Web Address: <http://www.history.com/topics/columbia-disaster>



3. Watch the video, and read the article titled “Challenger Disaster” on the following site.

Web Address: <http://www.history.com/topics/challenger-disaster>



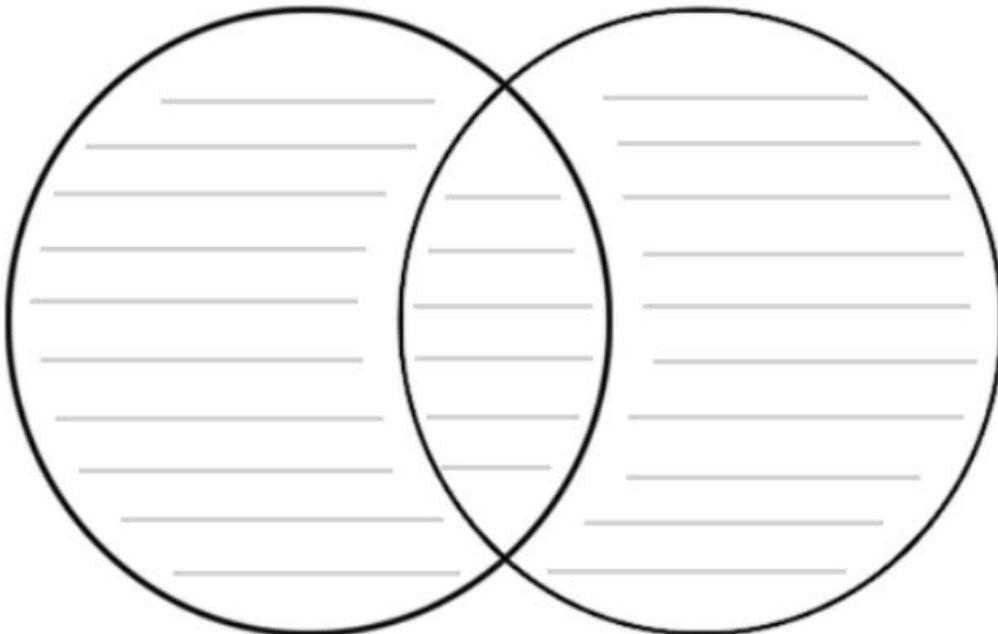
4. Read the article titled “NASA Displays Challenger and Columbia Wreckage” on the following site.

Web Address: <http://www.history.com/news/nasa-displays-challenger-and-columbia-wreckage>



5. Compare and contrast the two shuttle disasters.

Columbia and Challenger Comparison



During Reading

While you read *Finding Heroes*, you will complete a dialectical journal. In essence, you will be “practicing or arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer” (ESA Literature). Basically, you will be having a conversation with your novel in order to come to a better understanding of the text.

PROCEDURE:

- Make a T-Chart to put in your binder. In the left column, choose passages as you read that stand out to you. Record them, using quotation marks. Make sure you document the page numbers. (See example below).
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments).
- Make sure you label each entry according to the chapter number. Complete one entry per chapter. There are 28 chapters in *Finding Heroes*, so you will have 28 entries.

Passages from the text	Comments & Questions
CHAPTER 1: “-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders- and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns.” (O’Brien 2).	This provides excellent visual details of what soldiers in Vietnam would carry for fighting. It makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day.

CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:

Look for quotes that seem important, powerful, thought provoking or confusing. Ideas for what you might record are below. These are just suggestions. You are not limited to these.

- A passage that makes you see something in either yourself or humanity in general
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, themes, or ideas.
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that cause emotion (sadness, pride, relief)

WRITING RESPONSES TO THE TEXT:

You can *respond* to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be ***specific and detailed***. Basic Responses:

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with the author

After Reading

At the beginning of the school year, we will have a chance to meet with the author of *Finding Heroes*, Byron Starr. Write 10 thought provoking questions to ask when we meet with him. You can ask him about his experience during this time or his experience with being an author. Please make sure that your questions are courteous and respectful.

Suggestions for questions:

- When and why did you decide to write this book?
- What is the hardest thing about writing?
- What reactions or comments do you receive from people who have read your book?
- Do you plan to write another book in the future?