

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Reading

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_/52

Welcome to seventh grade! I hope that you have a wonderful and relaxing summer. Remember to:

- take time to relax
- enjoy the world around you
- spend time with God, family, and friends
- nourish your mind
- read

Read many different forms of literature. This can include news and magazine articles, comic books, recipes, manuals, directions, novels, etc. There are many different types of literature, so absorb all that you can this summer.

Am I required to read? Who wouldn't want to? Each student is required to read *A Season of Gifts* by Richard Peck and to **write or type a book review** following the format provided. Use the rubric to check your writing progress.

### ***A Season of Gifts* by Richard Peck**

One of the most adored characters in children's literature is the eccentric, forceful, bighearted Grandma Dowdel, star of the Newbery Award-winning *A Year Down Yonder* and Newbery Honor-winning *A Long Way from Chicago*. And it turns out that her story isn't over. It's now 1958, and a new family has moved in next door to Mrs. Dowdel: a minister and his wife and kids. Soon Mrs. Dowdel will work her particular brand of charm on all of them, and they will quickly discover that the last house in town might also be the most vital.

**Choose a second book** (age and grade appropriate) to read. Be prepared to share this novel with your class in a presentation:

- the title
- the author
- the genre
- the setting (*time, place, mood*)
- the theme (an underlying message or the big idea of a story)
- a BRIEF summary of the story (no more than five sentences)
- a BRIEF character description of the protagonist (use one character trait and use an event from the story to illustrate that character trait)
- Why you would recommend this story and to whom
- Bring a copy of the book to class to provide a visual

I am looking forward to hearing about the adventures you take with the characters in the novels when we start your seventh grade year at SGCS! Have a wonderful summer! Ms. Timme

Middle School Argumentative Writing Rubric

Element	Needs Improvement 1	Fair 2	Strong 3	Excellent 4
Clear Claim with Reasons	Claim is unclear. No clear reasons are given.	Claim is clear, but the reasons are unclear, absent, or incomplete.	Claim and reasons are clearly stated	Claim is clearly stated and the reasons are strong.
Evidence INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS	Central claim is not supported. No evidence provided.	Attempts to support the central claim and reasons with facts, but information is unclear, inaccurate, or lacks citations.	Supports the central claim and reasons with facts, necessary details, and citations.	Supports the central claim and reasons with strong facts, thorough details, and accurate citations.
Explanation YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHY AUTHOR...	Contains little to no explanation or analysis of the information presented.	Attempts to explain and analyze the information, but the explanation is unclear or inaccurate.	Clearly explains and analyzes most of the information presented.	Clearly, concisely, and thoroughly explains and analyzes the information presented.
Conclusion	Abrupt or absent ending. No concluding statement.	Ends with a concluding statement that does not clearly relate to the central claim.	Ends with a concluding statement about the central claim.	Ends with a strong or compelling concluding statement that clearly relates to the central claim.
Formal Tone and Style DO NOT USE PRONOUN "YOU"	Informal language present throughout.	Writing contains some informal elements (e.g., contractions).	Writing attempts to maintain a formal and objective tone.	Writing maintains a formal and objective tone throughout.
Organization & Transitions	Little to no attempt at organization.	Attempts to organize ideas, but transitional language is needed.	Organizes ideas in a logical way. Transitional language used.	Strong organization and transitional language used skillfully throughout.
Mechanics (Spelling & Grammar)	Distracting mechanical errors throughout.	Mechanical errors distract at times.	A few errors present, but they do not distract.	Mechanics reflect careful editing.

# **SAMPLE BOOK REVIEW**

From <http://www.campbellcountyschools.org/userfiles/1266/Classes/8311/Book%20Reviews%20for%20kids%20by%20kids.pdf>

**Title: The Maze Runner**  
**Author: James Dashner**  
**Genre: Science Fiction**

*The Maze Runner* takes place in a very mysterious place called the "Glade" which is located in the center of a huge maze made of stone, and every night the walls close around the Glade so the stone walls can slide around to create a brand new maze. Most of the action takes place out in the maze at night when the Grievers come out. The Grievers are half machine and half animal, and will kill any person they find in the maze at night with no mercy. The author probably chose this setting because it's very mysterious and leaves you wanting to come back and read more just so you can find out more about this strange place.

The main character of the book is a boy named Thomas. Thomas is very curious as to how he got to the Glade, why everyone was sent here in the first place, and what life was like outside of the Glade where he actually had a family. Being curious could be a good thing, but in the Glade it can also be a bad thing. Many people in the Glade don't like to be questioned or doubted, even though in some cases Thomas's curiosity could pay off.

The plot of the book is to have Thomas and all of the other "Gladers" find their way out of the maze using out of the ordinary ways of thought. Thomas tries to be the hero throughout many parts of the book, but sometimes he doesn't think about what's safe for him, and he only thinks about saving the day. The climax of the book is when all of the "Gladers" decide to make one last run for it and then everything becomes dysfunctional.

After reading the story, the author wants you to feel on edge because you find out how the outside world has changed for the worse, and the Glade might have been a good option. The author also wants you to learn that everyone has to work together so accomplish something huge. When someone tries a huge task alone they probably won't be able to do it, but together they can do anything.

This book held my interest because no matter where you decided to stop reading, you were always left on a cliffhanger. The book is very suspenseful, especially when they had no choice but to run for their lives. I would recommend this book to anyone, whether they usually like science fiction or not because I usually don't, and this book was still extremely well-written and had an amazing storyline.

**Your name goes here!**