

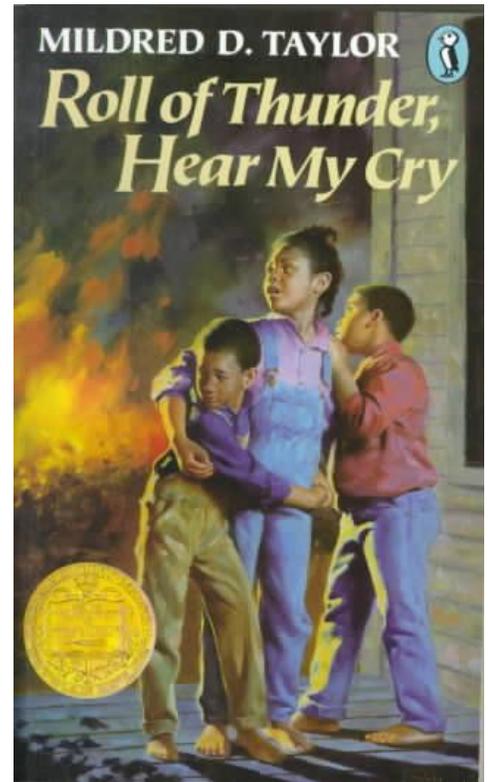


7TH GRADE HUMANITIES
2016 Summer Reading

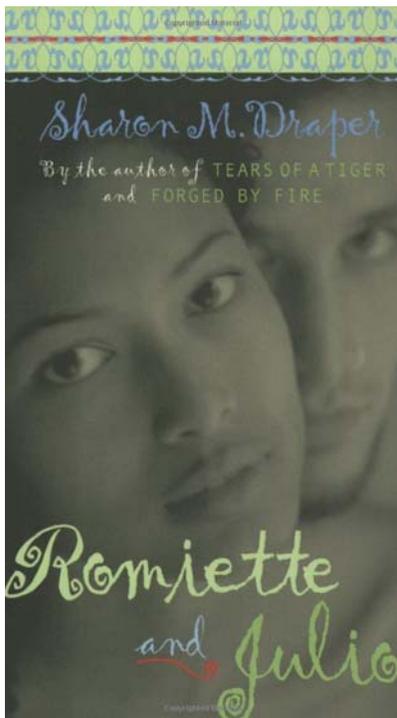
Name: _____

Summer Reading Expectations:

- a) This summer, all students entering the 7th grade need to read *Roll of Thunder Hear my Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor, a powerful story about an African American family who is forced to deal with many racial injustices while living in the South during the 1930's.
- b) Students are also *strongly* encouraged to read the honors book—*Romiette and Julio* by Sharon Draper—an exciting work of fiction that is a modernized version of Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet. Two star crossed high school students, from different background, fall in love amidst racial pressure.
- c) In addition, all students must write a lengthy letter-essay. The details are on the back. It is due on the first day of school.



- d) Students are also strongly encouraged to read *at least* a book a week to keep their “reading muscles” in shape for the fall. No skill is more important than reading. Whether you are reading fun magazines or drama-filled realistic fiction, it is important to try to read as much as you can during the summer.



Note: Students cannot receive higher than a B for the summer reading assignment unless they read the honors book, *Romiette and Julio*. They don't need to do an extra piece of writing on this honors book, but if they read it, they should be ready to have a brief chat with their teacher about the book.

Letter-Essay Instructions:

- All students must write a letter-essay about the required summer book, *Roll of Thunder*
- A letter-essay is formatted like a personal letter written to your humanities teacher, but it is meant to be deep and thoughtful like a longer essay for school.
- Each of the five paragraphs should be at least 11 sentences long.
- Type your letter or write it very neatly by hand.
- Use the guidelines below for writing each paragraph of your letter.

Dear humanities teacher,

1. Summary

- Introduce the main characters, setting (where/when it takes place), and major plot points (what happens in the book).*
- Make sure you talk about what happens in the beginning, middle, and end—not just one part of the story.*

2. Character Change

- Describe one specific way that Mildred, the protagonist (main character), changes over the course of the story.*
- Make sure to use details from the beginning, middle, and end of the text.*

3. Theme

- What are you taking away from this book in terms of its morals or lessons?*
- Think about the themes or big ideas of the book—such as race, family, fear, love, violence, etc—and what the book has you thinking about these.*
- Pick just one (or two) of these ideas and reflect on it deeply rather than trying to hit on every big idea in the book.*

4. Personal Connection

- Which part of the book did you love the most? Which part of the book did you connect the most with?*
- Give an example of an actual piece of text that you liked. Copy it directly from the text and put it in between quotation marks: “ ”*
- Then, explain why you chose this particular piece of text and why it makes you want to keep reading the story.*

5. Just You

- What should your teacher know about you and your family?*
- What are the things that make you the person that you are? What are the things that someone needs to know about you in order to really understand who you are?*
- Don't forget to include your dreams for your life at this point—what you want to do when you get older, what sort of life you want to live, etc.*

Sincerely,

[Your name]