

Summer Reading 7th Grade: Voyage and Return

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Directions: Answer the questions on a piece of notebook paper. Use complete sentences. Write in your best handwriting. Remember, if I can't read it, I can't grade it! All work is due August 10, 2018.

Plot Elements- Definitions: (Standard used: Summarize the elements of plot development)

Exposition (beginning)—the story begins and characters are introduced.

Setting—Where a story takes place.

Rising Action—something happens to make the story more interesting; the characters have a problem.

Climax—the most suspenseful part of the story; the characters must finally face their problems and make decisions.

Falling Action—the character has made a decision about how to handle the problem, and now the story is coming to a close.

Resolution (ending)—the story concludes as the action comes to an end.

Protagonist—the leading character or one of the major characters

Antagonist—A person who is opposed to, struggles against, or competes with another; opponent; adversary.

Theme—the underlying message or the “big idea.” The belief about life that the author is trying to convey in the writing, novel, poem, short story or play. (Examples, good vs. evil, friendship, love).

Questions:

1. Who is the protagonist of *The Phantom Tollbooth*?
2. Who is/are the antagonists of the story?
3. What is the exposition?
4. What is the rising action of the story?
5. What is the climax of *The Phantom Tollbooth*?
6. What is the falling action of the story?

7. What is the resolution?
8. Why do you think Milo was chosen to receive *The Phantom Tollbooth*?
9. According to the book, why is it important not to waste time? Find a Bible verse that discusses how important time is.
10. How long does it take for the events in *The Phantom Tollbooth* to actually take place? Why does more time pass in the Lands Beyond than it does in the real world?
11. What does the author suggest about words and their power? Locate a Bible verse that discusses the power of words.
12. Summarize *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Describe the settings and characters. A good summary should be 10-14 sentences, more if necessary. Use text from the story to describe the setting. Include page numbers.
13. Theme in a story is its underlying message, or 'big idea.' In other words, what critical belief about life is the author trying to convey in the writing of a novel, play, short story or poem (examples: friendships, love, good vs. evil, etc.)? What do you think is the theme of *The Phantom Tollbooth*?