



# JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY

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## RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

### STUDENTS ENJOY CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR SUMMER READING

Upon their eager and excited return to school last week, each Middle School student was given creative opportunities to demonstrate his/her knowledge and understanding of the literature assigned over the summer. While summer is an important opportunity to rest and recharge, it is also a valuable time to maintain skills and gain exposure to different types of writing and reading.

Seventh grade students were able to choose two of five novels, representing a variety of genres and interests, as their summer reading selections. Upon their return to school, the students transformed into publicists and critics, writing an engaging and emphatic book to promote their novels. In this writing exercise, students demonstrated a depth of knowledge about the main character while also weighing each word to ensure that he/she was able to sell the novel in only 150 words or less.

Each sixth grade student read two novels over the summer break, one which was assigned and the other was a choice book. As a jumping off point for our study of personality traits and dynamic characters, the class engaged in lively discussions analyzing Moose and Natalie from Gennifer Choldenko's *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, and students are currently creating character maps as visual representations of the internal and external character traits gleaned from their summer reading.

Each of these projects will provide fodder for our studies in Language Arts this year and continue to enrich our class discussions and continued literary analysis.

