

# WELCOME TO 7TH GRADE

## ADVANCED ENGLISH

Dear Students,

Congratulations on your selection to 7th Grade Advanced English! Your record of performance and achievement has resulted in a fun opportunity to explore writing, reading, literature, and communication skills in a thought-provoking and challenging class here at Vacaville Christian Middle School. While much of the curriculum will parallel that of a core English class, your advanced class will dive deeper into material, have meaningful discussions that answer essential questions, and you'll accomplish a higher volume of work.

This summer you will start your journey with a summer reading project. To encourage the joy of reading, I have pre-selected four books from which you will choose one to read. You will then produce a book poster to include graphics/imagery, a summary, and a review. All of the details are in the attached brochure and rubric. Books can be found on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at your local library.

I hope you'll enjoy the book you choose and the project you create. I look forward to seeing your posters on the 1st day of school in 2023! Have a blessed summer!

*Mrs. Campbell*



MRS. LOUELLA T. CAMPBELL  
7TH GRADE ENGLISH

### TIPS TO SUCCEED IN THIS PROJECT

- Read this letter, the brochure, and the rubric thoroughly before beginning. Highlight the expected products and the due date.
- Research the books for page numbers, reading levels, and additional details to help you decide. A great source is Common Sense Media and Amazon.
- Establish a reading schedule for the summer. If you order your book ASAP, you should be 1/4th through by mid-June, half complete by end of June, 3/4ths done by mid July, and finish reading by the end of July. That leaves you approximately 2 weeks to work on the poster.
- Schedule your work with consideration to your summer plans. Don't procrastinate!
- Download audio versions to listen to on long road trips. It's best to read along in a regular book to ensure visual exposure to new vocabulary.
- All books are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, your local library (they offer free online loans, too), or the Bounty Bookstore in Vacaville!

Email: [louella.campbell@go-vcs.com](mailto:louella.campbell@go-vcs.com)

I'll be on campus approximately 3 days per week this summer for most weeks.  
Please email me for any questions or concerns, or if you just need help!

# THE Summary

A book summary is comprised of a large amount of information shared in a short space. It is written in a single, well-developed paragraph that delivers multiple elements about the novel while withholding the ending of the story. Your summary should include:

**The genre and setting of the book.** Readers want a sense of the style of the book, whether it is fiction, fantasy, historical, or fact. This can be a simple sentence that ties into the overall conflict or setting of the book.

**A description of the main character(s).** Describe your character according to their key qualities or their role in the story. Is he an ultra-suave British superspy? Is she a trouble-maker? Is he deaf? Offer a relatable detail that intrigues readers throughout the story. State the goals of your protagonist and antagonist without giving away the end of the story.

**The central conflict of the story.** What does the protagonist want and how is the antagonist preventing this? Introduce the villain and their motives. Minor conflicts might be revealed in the book, but focus on the main conflict in this summary. Remember: don't reveal the outcome!

**Here's a sample starting summary sentence to help you get started:**

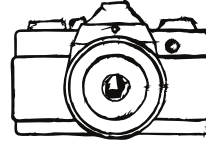
*In a (SETTING), (YOUR PROTAGONIST) has a (CONFLICT) because of (ANTAGONIST OR SOURCE OF CONFLICT.)*

# THE SAMPLE POSTER

## SHOOTING KABUL

BY N.H. SENZAI

Eleven-year-old Fadi and his family flee Afghanistan, where the Taliban are taking power, to live in San Francisco. While boarding the truck in Kabul they will take them across the Pakistani border, Fadi loses his six-year-old sister, Mariam, and she is left behind. The novel focuses on Fadi's struggle with his conscience over losing his sister, his transition into an American high school, and his coming of age as a young man.



In the book, *Shooting Kabul* by N. H. Senzai, Fadi's parents made a very difficult decision to leave their past life, and the Taliban, behind in Afghanistan and start a new chapter in their life in America.

I could not stop reading this book. Each chapter had a new surprise or shock to the story line. I was able to connect to the author's description of the characters' experiences in certain situations. Anyone going through transitions (like a new school) would relate to Fadi well. I also love how the book includes some history since it takes place in 2001, the US attack by Al Qaeda.

I would pick this book up any day and reread it. It taught me that changes can be difficult for many people, regardless of who they are or their nationality. We can all persevere.

- Lou Campbell

7TH GRADE ENGLISH

Advanced

## SUMMER READING PROJECT

OUR HOPE

READING IS DESIGNED TO BE A "SUMMER VACATION" AWAY FROM EVERYDAY LIFE, WHERE WE CAN LIVE THROUGH STORIES FILLED WITH ADVENTURE AND FUELED BY EMOTION, LEAVING US WITH AN EXPERIENCE ONLY ACHIEVED WHEN WE INVEST IN THE WORLD OF READING

## THE OBJECTIVE

SELECT A BOOK TO **READ OVER THE SUMMER** AND **DESIGN AN 11"x14" (OR LARGER) BOOK POSTER** TO SHARE A **SUMMARY** OF THE STORY FEATURING THE MAIN CHARACTERS, THE CONFLICT, AND YOUR **RECOMMENDATION**.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Summary & Book Review Expectations  
Book Options  
Example Poster  
Rubric (attached)

LOUELLA T. CAMPBELL

7TH GRADE ENGLISH

BIBLE MISSIONS | YEARBOOK | READING LAB

LOUELLA.CAMPBELL@GO-VCS.COM

# THE REVIEW

## THE BOOK OPTIONS

The book review is **not** a summary. It is an assessment to attract the interest of potential readers of the book. Your book review will be shared in class for discussion.

**Read the entire book before beginning your review.** It is impossible to paint a full, all-inclusive picture of your book otherwise. Take notes as you read. Does something catch your eye? Makes you question? Strike you as important to the plot flow? Take digital notes, write in your book (if it's a personal copy) or use sticky notes placed in the book.

The format of your book review should follow this example:

**Paragraph 1: Introduction.** Share your insight and opinion of the book, as well as the author's intended message in the story. What is the theme, moral, or experience that impacts the main character?

**Paragraph 2: Evaluation of the writing.** Explain the conflicts of the characters and how they respond. Offer more than your opinion. Elaborate on character development, what lessons they learned, or how they interact. Discuss the **writing style** of the author. Was it conversational? Easy to follow? In verse? Select and explain **one quote** that was meaningful to you.

**Paragraph 3: Personal opinion of the book overall.** Be honest. This is your review and what you learned from the book. Support your opinion with evidence. Explain if you could(n't) connect with characters, or why you couldn't stop reading until the end.

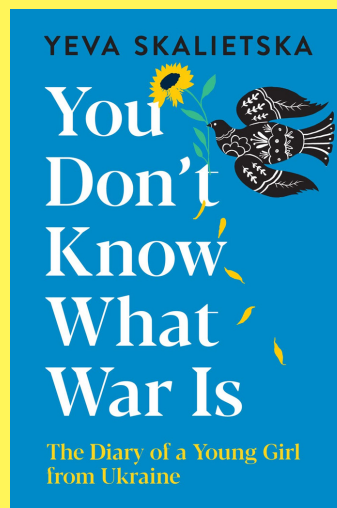
**Refugee** follows the stories of three different children and their families, each attempting to flee their violent homelands



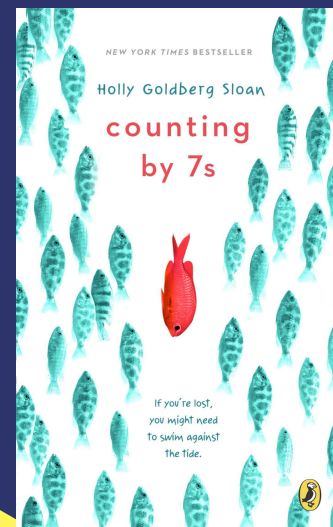
in different regions of the world and during different decades. Josef and his family flee Nazi Germany in 1938; Isabel and her family flee Cuba in 1994; and Mahmoud and his family flee Syria in 2015.

12-year-old Yeva's life has changed forever. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling. Russia had invaded Ukraine, and her beloved Kharkiv home was no longer the safe haven it should have been.

It was while she and her granny were forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement that Yeva decided to write down her story. And it is a story that the world needs to hear.



## THE BOOK OPTIONS



Willow Chance is a 12-year-old adopted girl in Bakersfield, CA, who's obsessed with gardening, rare skin conditions and other medical oddities and counts by sevens to relax. Her parents are the only people

who really understand her. After Willow loses her parents in a car crash, her counselor takes an interest in her & two other misfit students of his - a teen brother and sister - and all of their lives become entwined with devastated Willow's.

### **Black Brother**

**Black Brother** is a powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition.





**Project Focus/Title: Summer Reading Project, Book Poster, Review, Summary** Student Name / Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Objective:** Students will read one of four pre-selected novels during the course of the summer. Student will then design a custom-made poster featuring imagery representing a character, conflict, or event, and include the title and author. Student will then write a one-paragraph summary and a three-paragraph book review. Requirements are outlined in the project brochure & this rubric. **This rubric (self-graded) and the project are due no later than the first day of school.**

Aspect of Project	No credit (0) because...	Below Basic (1) because...	Basic (2) because...	Proficient (3) because...	Advanced (4) because...
<b>Organ-ization</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster lacked organization. <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic doesn't connect with the novel. <input type="checkbox"/> Vague or incomplete summary and/or review.	<input type="checkbox"/> Image is similar to the original or other published versions of the novel. <input type="checkbox"/> Summary and/or review lacked paragraph structure and organization of sentences.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary placement of an original image. <input type="checkbox"/> Summary is one basic paragraph of 5-7 sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Review has three basic paragraphs: introduction, main body, and conclusion.	<input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful poster organization of all elements for visual impact. <input type="checkbox"/> Sentences organized in a relevant manner with respect to summary and/or review.	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster organization leverages space in a creative manner with evident thought & planning. <input type="checkbox"/> Design maximized impact and influence on potential readers.
<b>Ideas / Image &amp; Written Content</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster design lacked creativity. <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal elaboration about characters, events/plot, conflict, and/or genre in summary. <input type="checkbox"/> Points are undeveloped. <input type="checkbox"/> Book author and title missing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Image loosely related to the novel. <input type="checkbox"/> Limited elaboration doesn't fulfill the purpose of summary and/or review. <input type="checkbox"/> Elaboration is inaccurate, confusing, or off-topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Overall lack of personal thought and reflection.	<input type="checkbox"/> Image is an obvious poster choice. <input type="checkbox"/> Summary includes basic information per requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Review has the student's single-dimension opinion and one reference to text evidence for connected support, plus connection to character. Conclusion sums up student's thoughts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Image used was evident of analysis & evaluation. <input type="checkbox"/> Summary successfully delivered pertinent background information. <input type="checkbox"/> Review delivered opinion highlighting multiple aspects of the novel in a well-constructed manner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleverly crafted content with maximum influence on potential readers. <input type="checkbox"/> Elaborated on personal reflection in summary. <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting/varied elaboration brings the student's experience to life. <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusive presentation of summary & review delivers reliable influence to potential readers.
<b>Language / Written Style</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly incorrect sentence structure (run-ons/ fragments ) <input type="checkbox"/> Basic & inaccurate words/phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear/confusing language. <input type="checkbox"/> No clear style, voice, or tone used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentences difficult to read. <input type="checkbox"/> Repetitive use of basic words/phrases, some with inaccuracy. <input type="checkbox"/> Language is too simple/unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Style, voice, and tone do not address purpose/audience	<input type="checkbox"/> Little or simple sentence variety. <input type="checkbox"/> Basic & predictable, yet accurate words with mediocre impact. <input type="checkbox"/> Language includes passive voice and minimal description.	<input type="checkbox"/> Image and writing match in style, voice, and tone appropriate to the purpose. <input type="checkbox"/> Varied sentence structure and word selection in a meaningful way to support academic benefits of the project. <input type="checkbox"/> Language uses some description, strong verbs, or vocabulary	<input type="checkbox"/> Variety in sentences, wording, style, voice, and tone enhance purpose and precisely fit the audience. <input type="checkbox"/> Academic & specific content-related vocabulary and details enrich the topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Rich & precise words, strong verbs, active voice, figurative language, or quotations are used
<b>Conven-tions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Text is confusing due to frequent errors (>10) in capitalization, usage, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Misunderstandings due to >7 errors in mechanics which required re-reading for clarity.	<input type="checkbox"/> Text understood, despite 5 errors in mechanics which caused some confusion.	<input type="checkbox"/> Text clearly understood, with less than 4 errors in capitalization, usage, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, etc., which did not cause confusion.	<input type="checkbox"/> Text communicates clearly with only 3 errors in capitalization, usage, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, etc.