



MRS. GROSS' 5TH GRADE SUMMER LITERACY INVITATION



To my incoming 5th grade students & families,

In 5th grade, our classroom will be filled with lots of stories, but not just any stories. We'll read books that will stretch our hearts, open our eyes, and invite us to ask deeper questions about who we are, who we're becoming, and how we show up in the world.

Each book was chosen with great care, not only to help us grow as readers and writers, but to help us grow as people.

In our classroom, we'll explore themes related to what it means to be brave when no one is watching, speaking up when it's hard, and standing tall in who we are even when the world feels unkind.

From Arthur in *"The Seventh Most Important Thing"*, who learns that even mistakes can lead to redemption, to Maniac Magee, who runs through a divided town with courage and heart, we'll meet characters who will stay with us long after the final pages.

I believe that books can be mirrors that help us understand ourselves, and windows that help us understand others. Our year together will be about both. We'll learn, laugh, reflect, and wonder, but most importantly, we'll grow. By the end of 5th grade, my hope is that every student walks away not just knowing how to write a 5 paragraph essay or analyze a character, but believing in their voice, their story, and their power to be themselves and help change the world.

In order to prepare, your summer reading will consist of two books:

 **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis**

 **Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate**

For “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”, I would love to read your reflections as you read. As you journey through Narnia, please keep a journal and jot down:

- **Moments that stood out to you or made you feel something**
- **Any connections you made to your own life or the world**
- **Questions you’re left wondering about the characters, the setting, or the message**
- **And most importantly, how the story makes you think about courage, truth, and imagination**

Feel free to write freely as there’s no wrong way to reflect when it comes from your heart.

Your journal will be collected during the first week of school and it will help us begin our year centered on your voice, your thoughts, and the stories that move you.

I can’t wait to see what Narnia sparks in you

For your second book, “Crenshaw”, I have attached a “Literacy Menu” for you to choose ONE project to complete after reading. Choose the one that feels most fun to you! Have both ready to bring in for the first week of school!

Lovingly,

Mrs. Gross

5TH GRADE SUMMER LITERACY

MENU

CRENSHAW

IMAGINARY FRIEND PORTRAIT + STORY

CREATE: DRAW, PAINT, OR COLLAGE YOUR OWN IMAGINARY FRIEND (LIKE CRENSHAW!).

WRITE: A ONE-PAGE STORY OR COMIC STRIP WHERE YOU AND YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND GO ON AN ADVENTURE. INCLUDE A CHALLENGE/CONFLICT AND HOW YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND HELPS YOU THROUGH IT.

EMOTION SILHOUETTES

CREATE: DRAW A LARGE SILHOUETTE OF JACKSON. INSIDE HIS OUTLINE, FILL THE SPACE WITH COLORS, SYMBOLS, OR SMALL DRAWINGS THAT SHOW HOW HE FEELS DURING DIFFERENT MOMENTS IN THE STORY.

WRITE: CHOOSE 3 OF THE EMOTIONS AND WRITE A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT WHAT CAUSED EACH ONE. WRITE THE PAGE AND PARAGRAPH NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN FIND EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT THAT SUPPORT THE EMOTIONS THAT YOU CHOSE.

CRENSHAW'S SUITCASE: WHAT WOULD YOU PACK?

CREATE: DRAW OR DESIGN AN OPEN SUITCASE. INSIDE, ILLUSTRATE OR COLLAGE 5 SYMBOLIC ITEMS THAT JACKSON OR CRENSHAW WOULD PACK.

WRITE: FOR EACH ITEM, WRITE A SHORT EXPLANATION OF WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT, BOTH EMOTIONALLY AND PRACTICALLY.

BOOK COVER REDESIGN + ARTIST STATEMENT

CREATE: DESIGN YOUR OWN BOOK COVER FOR CRENSHAW, USING ART MATERIALS OF YOUR CHOICE.

WRITE: ON THE BACK, INCLUDE A SHORT "ARTIST'S STATEMENT" EXPLAINING THE CHOICES YOU MADE INCLUDING COLORS, SYMBOLS, CHARACTERS, AND THE MOOD YOU WANTED TO SHOW.

SCENE SNAPSHOT: THEN & NOW

CREATE: CHOOSE TWO MOMENTS FROM THE BOOK, ONE FROM THE BEGINNING AND ONE FROM THE END. DRAW A SPLIT-SCREEN IMAGE SHOWING HOW JACKSON OR HIS FAMILY CHANGED.

WRITE: ADD A FEW SENTENCES FOR EACH SIDE DESCRIBING WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT IT SHOWS ABOUT JACKSON'S GROWTH.

CRENSHAW'S MESSAGE TO JACKSON

WRITE: WRITE A LETTER OR ILLUSTRATED POEM FROM CRENSHAW TO JACKSON AT THE END OF THE STORY. WHAT WOULD CRENSHAW SAY? HOW WOULD HE ENCOURAGE JACKSON TO KEEP BEING BRAVE AND TRUE TO HIMSELF?

CREATE: DECORATE: THE PAGE WITH DRAWINGS, DOODLES, OR COLORS THAT MATCH YOUR MESSAGE.