

**Saint Hilary of Poitiers  
Incoming Seventh Graders  
Summer Reading Assignment**

**Summary:** You will read 2 books this summer. It is your responsibility to obtain the books and follow the guidelines below. The books are:

- 1) Left Out by Tim Green
- 2) Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

## **LEFT OUT**

- 1) Read the novel. Work on these questions below as you are reading or after reading- your choice.
- 2) a) The questions should be answered in a Google Doc, Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced. You do not need to copy the actual questions over to the Google Doc, just make sure to number your answers.  
b) You must use your SHS Google/Gmail account to set up the Doc. Name, Date and "Left Out" as the title go at the top of the page.  
c) Employ grade appropriate writing skills, varying sentence structure and writing in compound and complex sentences to pack as much information as you can into the limited number of sentences that you are required to write for each response.  
d) Responses should be grammatically correct, written in complete sentences (that start with capital letters and make use of the necessary punctuation), and there should not be any spelling mistakes.  
e) Please edit your work before submitting your assignment.  
f) The completed questions are due by the first day of school
- 3) We will review the novel and your summer assignment during the first week of school. **Following our class review, you will have the first ELA test of 7th grade on the novel.** Completing the summer assignment well will help you to prepare for your first assessment of seventh grade.

### **SIX ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS FOR LEFT OUT:**

1. Setting: The setting of a piece of literature is the time and place in which the story occurs. The definition of setting can also include social statuses, weather, historical period, and details about immediate surroundings. Settings can be real or fictional, or a combination of both real and fictional elements. Some settings are very specific (Wulfhall in Wiltshire England in 1500), while others are descriptive (a boat out on the ocean). Most pieces of literature include more—or many more—than one setting, either as the narrative progresses through time or to include points of view from more than one character.  
**In at least FIVE sentences: What is the setting of the novel?**
  - i. **If there are multiple settings, please be sure to describe all.**
  - ii. **Be specific. Include descriptive details that the author used to develop the setting.**
2. Characters: There are many types of characters in literature.

- a. Confidante → A confidante is someone in whom the main character confides. He or she reveals the central character's thoughts, intentions, and personality traits. However, a confidante need not necessarily be a person. An animal can also be a confidante.
- b. Dynamic Character → A dynamic character changes during the course of a novel or a story. This change in character or his/her outlook is permanent. That is why sometimes a dynamic character is also called a "developing character."
- c. Static Character → A static character remains the same throughout the whole story. Even the events in a story or novel do not change character's outlook, perceptions, habits, personality, or motivations.
- d. Antagonist → An antagonist is a bad guy, or an opponent of the protagonist or the main character. The action in the story arises from a conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist. The antagonist can be a person, an inanimate object, an animal, or nature itself.
- e. Protagonist → Every story has a protagonist, the main character, who creates the action of the plot and engages readers, arousing their empathy and interest. The protagonist is often a hero or heroine of the story, as the whole plot moves around him or her.
- f. Round Character → The round characters are well-developed and complex figures in a story. They are more realistic, and demonstrate more depth in their personalities. They can make surprising or puzzling decisions, and attract readers' attention. There are many factors that may affect them, and round characters react to such factors realistically.
- g. Flat Character → A flat character does not change during a story. Also, he or she usually only reveals one or two personality traits.
- h. Stock Character → A stock character is a flat character that is instantly recognizable by readers. Like a flat character, the stock character does not undergo any development throughout the story.

**In at least FIVE sentences, Who are the characters in the novel?**

- 1. **If there are multiple characters, please be sure to describe them all.**
- 2. **Be specific. Include descriptive details that the author used to develop the characters. What do the characters look like? What are their personality traits? How do they grow and develop throughout the novel?**

- 3. Rising Action: Rising action in a plot is a series of relevant incidents that create suspense, interest, and tension in a narrative. In literary works, the rising action includes all decisions, characters flaws, and background circumstances that together create turns and twists leading to a climax.

**In at least THREE sentences: What events make up the rising action? What do the characters struggle with leading up to the highlight of the plot?**

- 4. Conflict: In literature, the conflict is a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces, usually a protagonist and an antagonist.
  - a. There are two main types of conflict, internal and external.
    - i. An internal or psychological conflict arises as soon as a character experiences two opposite emotions or desires – usually virtue and vice, or good and evil – inside him

or her self. This disagreement causes the character to suffer mental agony, and it develops a unique tension in a storyline, marked by a lack of action.

- ii. External conflict, on the other hand, is marked by a characteristic involvement of an action wherein a character finds himself in struggle with those outside forces that hamper his progress. The most common type of external conflict is where a protagonist fights back against the antagonist's tactics that impede his or her advancement.

**In at least 5 sentences, Which types of conflict have you observed in the novel? There is usually more than one conflict in a novel. Be sure to identify and describe them all.**

5. Climax: The climax is the particular point in a narrative at which the conflict or tension hits the highest point. It is a structural part of a plot, and is at times referred to as a "crisis." It is a decisive moment or a turning point in a storyline at which the rising action turns around into a falling action. Thus, a climax is the point at which a conflict or crisis reaches its peak, then calls for a resolution.

**In at least TWO sentences, what is the climax of the novel? Describe the shift in the plot, the point at which conflicts begin to find resolutions.**

6. Resolution: The resolution is the unfolding or solution of a complicated issue in a story. Most of the instances of resolution are presented in the final parts or chapters of a novel and most often follow the climax. In a few novels, the climax and resolution may occur simultaneously. However, in most novels, the resolution takes place at the end of the story. Considering that it ends a story, resolution is an integral part of the conflict of the story.

**In at least TWO sentences, what is the resolution to this novel?**

## **Out of My Mind**

The main character in Out of My Mind, Melody, has cerebral palsy which affects her whole body, her ability to move, eat, and communicate. BUT, it does not affect Melody's brain. In fact, Melody is incredibly intelligent and funny. We read in the story about the frustrations and anger she feels when people look at her body in her wheelchair and think she must be 'dumb' or 'not smart'. In 6th grade, we read the morals from Aesop's Fables and one of them was "Do not judge a book by its cover". Melody's mind is very alive and full of passions.

- 1) In this creative assignment, please brainstorm and write down words as you read that describe Melody's thoughts, feelings, the things she loves, the things she hates, the things that make her laugh: in other words, all the things that are 'in her mind'.
- 2) Using these notes, print the page below, and create a collage of what's in Melody's head. You can draw pictures, write words, sentences, cut out pictures from magazines, internet etc. to fill 'Melody's head'.
- 3) I will not be collecting your 'notes', they are your scrap-paper/brainstorming page, but I will be expecting a completed collage to be submitted on the first day of school.

4) The template/ page for the collage is at the BOTTOM OF THIS GOOGLE DOC

**Conclusion:**

You will read two books for summer reading. The following tests and grades will make up your first ELA grades of 7th grade.

- 1) Summer assignment questions above on LEFT OUT
- 2) Test on LEFT OUT
- 3) OUT OF MY MIND collage

# Out of My Mind- Melody

Student Name:

