

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**East Meadow School District  
Summer Reading  
Entering Grade 6  
Assessments**

**GUIDE QUESTIONS**

Answer each of the following questions using the RAFT format for writing. Be sure to use different examples and references from the text to support individual questions. The guide questions are intended to guide your reading of the entire novel and to help you comprehend what you have read.

Bring your completed responses to class and be prepared to use the answers to these questions as part of a book talk and/or classroom discussion. Feel free to bring any additional notes you may have taken with you at this time, also.

1. Choose one of the characters. In what ways is he/she like you? In what ways is he/she different from you?
2. What was the most exciting or interesting event in the book? Be sure to identify the event and explain why you found it exciting or interesting.
3. Chose one problem from the novel and explain how the problem was solved (resolved).
4. What makes this book appealing to people your age? Will this book still be appealing 10 years from now? Explain your answer.
5. Authors write with the purpose of conveying a message or sharing a value or idea. What do you think was the author's purpose for writing this novel? What did he/she want you to learn or understand about life from the novel?

Remember **RAFT**:

R=restate the question

A=answer the question asked

F=for example (give concrete examples from the text)

T=tie it together (conclude/summarize your thoughts)

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**OPTION III: GUIDE QUESTIONS-RUBRIC**

<b>GUIDE QUESTIONS</b>	Great job— exceeds expectations	Good job— better than average	Tried but the bare minimum was done	Not gradable or doesn't exist
All five questions are answered.				
Each answer was prepared using the RAFT format (the R,A,F,T are clearly visible).				
Different examples were given for each question. Student did not use the same example to answer more than one question.				
Spelling, grammar and punctuation are correct.				
The answers are handwritten (or typed) neatly, legibly and with evidence of drafting and/or pre-planning.				

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**East Meadow School District  
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**GUIDE QUESTIONS/LITERARY ANALYSIS**

Respond to each of the following questions in at least 100 words. Answers should be written in complete sentences; use RAFT where applicable. Edit for correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. All answers will be stapled together and submitted in a two-pocket folder.

1. Choose three of the most interesting scenes in the novel and discuss why each scene catches your attention.
2. Discuss one character from the reading. Does he/she go through any changes? Give examples to support your responses.
3. Explain three events in the novel and how each one is important.
4. Would you want to read another book with the same characters from your reading? Why or why not?
5. As if you were the author of this novel, write an alternative ending for the book.

Remember **RAFT**:

R=restate the question

A=answer the question asked

F=for example (give concrete examples from the text)

T=tie it together (conclude/summarize your thoughts)

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**OPTION IV: GUIDE QUESTIONS RUBRIC**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Guide Questions</b>	Excellent—5	Good—4	Fair—3.5	Not Done—0
1. Answers are submitted in a two-pocket folder.				
2. Answers are logical and follow a clear order.				
3. Answers refer directly back to the questions, and stay on-topic.				
4. Every sentence in the paragraph has one complete thought.				
5. Answers are neatly hand-written or typed and satisfy the criteria of being 100 words in length.				
6. Each sentence begins with a capital letter, and has the proper punctuation.				
7. All words are spelled correctly.				
8. Three scenes are discussed and fully explained.				
9. Character analysis is supported with examples from the novel.				
10. Three important events from the novel are clearly explained.				

Total points = \_\_\_\_\_  
Points x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade = \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**East Meadow School District  
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Assessments**

**CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS**

The following questions pertain to the book you have read over the summer. Answer the questions in complete sentences. All responses must be at least 100 words. Different examples and references to the text should be used to demonstrate an insightful understanding of the text (plot, characters, setting, conflict and/or theme).

- 1) Record the words and phrases used by the author to describe the setting. Explain how the setting is important to the story.
  
- 2) Make a list of five-eight gifts that one of the characters might request for his/her birthday. Explain why these gifts are significant to the character.
  
- 3) Explain the major conflict that the main character faces and how it is resolved.
  
- 4) What do you think the author is trying to tell us about life and/or people? Use details from your reading to support your answer.
  
- 5) Would you want to read another book by this author? Why or why not?

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**OPTION IV: CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS-RUBRIC**

<b>Critical Thinking Questions</b>	5 Excellent	4 Good	3.5 Fair	0 Not Done
All five questions are answered in about 100 words each.				
Each answer clearly demonstrates an insightful understanding of the plot, characters, setting, conflict and/ or theme.				
Different examples were given for each question.				
Spelling, grammar and punctuation are correct.				
The answers are handwritten (or typed) neatly, legibly and with evidence of drafting and/or pre-planning.				
Points:				

Total points x 4 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading  
Entering Grade 7  
Assessments and Rubrics**

SEVENTH GRADE HONORS PROGRAM  
REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT  
TASK: Critical Lens Question

Write a critical essay in which you discuss I am Regina by Sally M. Keehn and the statement that is provided

***“One man’s word is no man’s word; we should quietly hear both sides.”***

**Johann Wolfgang Von**

**Goethe**

In the novel, I am Regina, by Sally M. Keehn, there are violent conflicts between the colonists and the Native American Indians during the early years of the United States. How does the above quote show how both the Native Americans and the colonists can consider themselves the victim? How does the knowledge of both sides of a conflict give us a clearer picture of the truth?

This should be a four-paragraph literary essay. Be sure to include:

- An Introduction paragraph, explaining the critical lens as you interpret it and introducing how both the Native Americans and the Colonists have differing points of view.
- One Body paragraph, exploring the colonist’s side of the conflict.
- One Body paragraph exploring the Native American’s side of the conflict.
- A Conclusion paragraph examining how people can only understand the truth after listening to all sides of an argument.

Check your work for proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**Summer Reading  
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**TASK: HONORS CRITICAL LENS RUBRIC**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADING RUBRIC FOR FOUR PARAGRAPH ESSAY**

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3.5 Fair	0 Not Done
I. <b>Critical lens:</b> The critical lens is restated and interpreted in the introduction.				
II. <b>Introduction paragraph:</b> The opening paragraph clearly introduces the idea that there were two opposing points of view presented in the literature.				
III. <b>Body 1:</b> Fully and clearly explains the colonists' side of the conflict				
IV. <b>Body 2:</b> Fully and clearly explains the Native Americans' points of view				
V. <b>Organization:</b> Maintain a focus and show a logical and coherent structure. Stay on task! No plot summary.				
VI. <b>Conclusion:</b> Sum up what you have stated in the body paragraphs. Remember, this is NOT the time for new info.				
VII. <b>Language:</b> Vary your language. Avoid words and phrases like "I," "In this essay," "As you can see," "I think," "In my opinion," and "I will prove."				
VIII. <b>Technical Control:</b> Use correct grammar, usage, and punctuation. No run-on sentences or fragments.				
IX. <b>Spelling:</b> Spelling is free of errors. There is evidence that proofing and the use of a dictionary existed.				
X. <b>Overall impression:</b> Be sure your essay is neat and organized.				
Points:				

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

%

**East Meadow School District  
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EIGHTH GRADE HONORS PROGRAM  
REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT  
TASK: Critical Lens Question

Write a critical essay in which you discuss The Wave by Todd Strasser and the statement that is provided. In your essay, provide an explanation of the statement, agree or disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it, and support your opinion using two specific examples from the novel.

*“Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”*  
- George Santayana

**Guidelines**

Be sure to:

- Provide a valid explanation of the statement.
- Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement.
- Avoid plot summary. Use references from the book, for example, theme, characterization, setting, and point of view.
- Explain two specific examples from the novel that support your opinion.
- Organize your ideas in a unified and coherent manner.
- Specify the title and author of the novel.
- Follow the conventions of standard written English.

**Summer Reading  
Entering Grade 8  
Assessments and Rubrics**

**TASK: HONORS CRITICAL LENS RUBRIC**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADING RUBRIC FOR FOUR PARAGRAPH ESSAY**

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3.5 Fair	0 Not Done
I. <b>Thesis:</b> Write a clear sentence that states the point you are proving.				
II. <b>Introduction:</b> Be sure to include an explanation of the statement and your position.				
III. <b>Meaning:</b> Explain and interpret the statement as it relates to the novel.				
IV. <b>Body 1:</b> Fully and clearly explain a <b>specific example</b> from the novel to support your opinion. Be sure to refer back to the statement.				
V. <b>Body 2:</b> Fully and clearly explain a second <b>specific example</b> from the novel to support your opinion. Be sure to refer back to the statement.				
VI. <b>Organization:</b> Maintain a focus and show a logical and coherent structure. Stay on task! No plot summary.				
VII. <b>Conclusion:</b> Sum up what you have stated in the body paragraphs. Restate your thesis in a different way.				
VIII. <b>Language:</b> Vary your language. Avoid words and phrases like "I," "In this essay," "As you can see," "I think," "In my opinion," and "I will prove."				
IX. <b>Technical Control:</b> Use correct grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling. No run-on sentences or fragments.				
X. <b>Overall impression:</b> Be sure your essay is neat and organized.				
Points:				

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_%

