

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Hillcrest Middle School Summer Reading 2011

We believe reading is a lifelong habit that should be nurtured, even in the summer. Therefore, each of you need to read **True Grit by Charles Portis**, the required book, and at least one other novel. Of course, we hope you will read many more books over the summer!

Plan on reading the required book as close to August as possible because it will be referred to in the first couple weeks of school. It is important to **take notes** when you read, for you will be expected to both discuss and write about the story in detail with specific examples.

**For the book you select on your own**, you are required to write a book report. Your book report will be graded on the following:

Title Page (4)	Punctuation (4)
Table of Contents (4)	Spelling (4)
Grammar (4)	Oral Presentation (5)
Knowledge (5 points)	
Comprehension (5points)	
Application (5 points)	
Analysis (5 points)	
Evaluation (5 points)	
Synthesis (5 points)	

Total: 55 points

The number of points given is based upon the quality of answers to these questions:

How well does the response address the question?

How well does the response reflect careful reading of the book?

How well is the response written?

**Point Values:**

5 Exceeds Standards

4 Meets Standards

3 Minor Revisions Needed

2 Needs More Instruction

1 Needs a Great Deal More Instruction

N Not Enough Evidence to Assess

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**Book Report Format:**

Select **one** activity from each category listed below. Select the activity, which fits your book the best.

**Knowledge:** Within this level of thinking you are able to recall fundamental facts and information about the story. Demonstrate this ability by selecting **one** of the activities below.

Activity 1: Create a crossword puzzle that includes main characters, significant events or other important details of the book. Include answer key.

Activity 2: Create a "Wanted Poster" listing the characteristics of the antagonist in the story and why he or she is wanted.

Activity 3: Retell the story including eight important events.

Activity 4: Create and arrange story pictures retelling the story. Include eight important events.

Activity 5: Describe the setting of the book. Include sensory details.

Activity 6: Draw the setting of the book including as many details as possible. Label your drawing and tell when and where it is.

**Comprehension:** Within this level of thinking, you are able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the book. Select **one** of the activities below.

Activity 1: Explain how the main character felt at the beginning, middle and end of the story and why.

Activity 2: Select a passage in the book and describe it. Then write a description explaining what happened before the passage and after it.

Activity 3: Select a passage in the book and describe it. Draw two pictures showing what happened before and after the selected passage.

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Activity 4: Explain three ideas of parts of the story in your own words.

Activity 5: Create a mind map of either section of the book or the entire book. Use symbols, colors, and pictures to demonstrate your understanding of the story. Tell what the characters are thinking and why.

**Application:** Within this level of thinking, you are able to use information from the story in a new way. Choose **one** the following activities to demonstrate your understanding.

Activity 1: Using symbolism, classify the central characters as animals or things. Explain why you chose the symbols that you did.

Activity 2: Transfer the main character to a new setting. Describe the setting and how the character would respond to the different people and situations that he or she might encounter.

Activity 3: Select a meal that one of the main characters would enjoy eating. Be certain that the food is appropriate for the time and place in which the story occurs. Create a menu and a method of serving it. Menu should include prices from the time period and graphics.

Activity 4: Think of situation that occurred to a character in the story and write about how you would have handled it differently. Be specific and use sensor details.

Activity 5: Give examples of people you know who have the same problems or life situations as the characters in the book. Be specific. How are the characters' lives different than these same people you know.

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**Analysis:** Within this level of thinking you are able to take parts of the book and examine them in order to better understand the entire story. Choose **one** of the activities below to demonstrate your ability to analyze.

Activity 1: Select the three central characters from the story. Identify each one's general qualities. Include in your description passages or statements from the story, which supports your ideas. Qualities can include both physical appearance as well as personality traits and can be either directly stated by the author or implied.

Activity 2: Select parts of the book that were the funniest, saddest, happiest and most unbelievable. Describe the event or situation and discuss your personal reaction to those parts.

Activity 3: Select a section of the book. Distinguish what could have happened from what could not have happened in real life. How are the events and characters believable or unbelievable? Use direct quotes from the story to support your opinions.

Activity 4: Central characters often express their opinions in the course of the story. Using five different statements from the main character, differentiate whether those statements are opinions or could be actual facts.

Activity 5: Compare and contrast two of the main characters. Quote the direct passages from the book that show what the characters are like.

Activity 6: Select an action of the main character that was similar to something you might have done. Describe what the character did and how and why you would have done the same thing.

**Evaluation:** Within this level of thinking, you are able to form and present an opinion backed up by sound reasoning. Choose **one** of the activities below to demonstrate your ability to evaluate.

Activity 1: Decide which character in the book you would most

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like to spend the day with. Describe what that day would be like. Discuss how it would be different if you visited the character in their world or if the visited you in your world.

Activity 2: Consider how this book could help you in your own life. Discuss how the story could or could not make a contribution in your life.

Activity 3: Compare and contrast this book with another on that you have read. Consider literary elements such as setting, characters, theme, plot and writing style. Using those terms, critically evaluate which book was better.

Activity 4: Write a recommendation as to why this book should be read or not. Support you opinion with evidence from the text.

Activity 5: Decide if the entire story really could have happened. Justify your opinions with evidence from the text.

**Synthesis:** Within this level of thinking, you are able to put parts of the book together in a new way to form a new idea or product. Choose **one** of the activities below to demonstrate your ability to synthesize.

Activity 1: Create a poster, using quotes from the novel and pictures from the story, to advertise the story so that other people would want to read it.

Activity 2: Invent a new product related to the story, something that the characters could have used. Draw an illustration of the product and description.

Activity 3: Restructure the roles of the main characters in the book to create new outcomes. Describe what would happen when the characters change roles.

Activity 4: Imagine that you are one of the main characters. Write a diary account of your daily thoughts and activities.

Activity 5: Write the lyrics and music to a song that one of the

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main characters might sing if she or he became a musical star.  
For extra credit, perform the song.

Activity 6: Create an original character. Describe that character  
and discuss how he or she would change the story.

Activity 7: Compose a dialogue or monologue that could  
communicate the thoughts and feelings of the main character at  
the most important point in the story.

If you have questions during the summer, you can contact us by  
e-mail at [eilmassey@yahoo.com](mailto:eilmassey@yahoo.com). We will periodically check this  
mailbox throughout the summer.

Mrs. Eileen Massey

Mr. Michael Kloess