



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PABLO CASALS MIDDLE SCHOOL 181

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that your upcoming summer vacation is enjoyable and safe. We expect our students to maintain their literacy skill level during this time. To achieve this goal, the Pablo Casals 181 Literacy Department has mandated summer assignments.

The reading comprehension activities in this packet are based on the following novels:

The Tequila Worm by Viola Canales
We Beat the Street by Davis, Jenkins, Draper

All assignments can be found on the following site:

<http://welcometo181.weebly.com>

Your child's literacy teacher will collect the summer work the second week of school. This is an essential first step on the path to success at MS 181. The assessments will constitute an important part of the first marking period grade and it is essential that your child complete all summer assignments and submit them on time!

Have a wonderful summer vacation. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kirrane, Assistant Principal, Literacy

8th Grade Reading Responses

1. Write a journal entry from the point of view of a character in the story.
 - Describe why an event within the story is from the characters' perspective.
 - Describe the character's thoughts, feelings and actions.
 - Use sensory language to convey the character's feelings.
 - Use well-chosen details from the story.
 - Be sure that the journal entry is clear, coherent and well developed

2. Compare and contrast two characters. You may choose two characters from the same novel or one from each novel you have completed.
 - Explain how the characters are similar to one another
 - Explain how the characters differ from one another
 - Use well chosen details from the story
 - Be sure that your writing is clear, coherent and well developed

3. How does the setting of the story contribute to the development of the plot?
 - How does the setting impact the story? Explain your answer using well chosen details from the story.
 - How would a different setting change the story? Could the same story occur with a different setting? Explain your answer and provide examples.

4. Which character in the story interested you the most? Which character was your least favorite?
 - Explain your answer using well chosen details from the story.
 - Be sure your writing is clear, coherent and well developed.

5. Write a letter to the author.
 - Explain what you enjoyed about the book.
 - Respectfully, explain what you did not like about the story and how you have changed it.
 - Use well chosen details from the story.
 - Be sure your writing is clear, coherent and well developed.

8th Grade Summer Reading

Novels:

- 1) The Tequila Worm by Viola Canales
- 2) We Beat The Street by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt, and Sharon Draper.

Task:

- For **each** novel, complete the corresponding questions or activity. (We Beat The Street questions and Tequila Worm chart with writing task).
- For **each** novel, choose one task from the "8th Grade Reading Response" worksheet and complete on a separate sheet of paper.
- Make sure to include your name and class on each sheet you are submitting. Assignments will be collected on the first day of school

Name _____

Class _____

Tequila Worm by Viola Canales
Summer Reading Assignment
Incoming 8th Grade

Story Element	Description of Element (1-2 sentences)	Evidence from text to support element description (Quotes w/page numbers)
Setting (time and place)		
Characters (protagonist and antagonist)		
Conflict (major problem(s))		
Plot (sequence of events)		
Theme (Central Topic)		

Writing Task: (On a separate sheet of paper)

Choose one of the story elements that you feel is most important to the overall story. Identify the element and explain how the author develops it over the course of the text. Evaluate how that element impacts the other elements in the story. Provide at least two pieces of evidence to support your response.

Name _____

Class _____

We Beat the Streets
Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. In this story of three New Jersey inner city youths, we see the negative and positive influences of peer pressure. Cite some examples from the story. How did the characters in the story react to these situations
2. What were the turning points for each of the young men that led them to enroll in the Seton Hall University pre-med program?
3. The three doctors grew up on the inner city streets of Newark, New Jersey. Pick one of the doctors. How did the inner-city environment (the school, the neighborhood, etc.) affect the actions and development of the doctor you picked?
4. What is the attitude of the three young men concerning learning, studying, and acquiring knowledge? How did they deal with friends who looked down on them or made fun of them for excelling in school or for dreaming of going to college?
5. In Swahili, Ujima means 'collective work and responsibility to the community,' and is known as one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. According to the book, what significance does Ujima have in the doctors' lives and why is it so important to them?
6. Discuss one conflict that takes place in the story (i.e., Rameck ending up in prison). Explain how that conflict impacted the character(s) involved?
7. In your opinion, what was the author's purpose in writing this book? Which element was most important to the overall story? Cite textual evidence to support your answer.