

Gesu Catholic School
6th Grade Summer Reading

Assigned Book:

Rules, by Cynthia Lord

Synopsis: (taken from the book jacket)

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" -- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Assignments:

All written activities may either be handwritten neatly on filler paper, or typed and printed out prior to the start of the school year. Flashcards should be completed on index cards.

Part I. Vocabulary

Directions: For each word, please create a flashcard with the word on one side and the definition and part of speech on the other. Additionally, on a separate piece of paper, write an original sentence using each vocabulary word. Please underline the vocabulary word in each sentence.

Vocabulary Word List:

- Crude (Pg. 2)
- Cringe (Pg. 63)
- Thrashing (Pg. 64)
- Wince (Pg. 67)
- Pry (Pg. 83)
- Smirk (Pg. 95)
- Gingerly (Pg. 98)
- Fumbling (Pg. 108)
- Distortion (Pg. 135)
- Lingering (Pg. 172)

Part II. Comprehension

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions thoroughly. Write in complete sentences and restate the question in your answer.

Example-

Question: What is the assigned summer reading book of the 6th grade?

Answer: The assigned summer reading book for the 6th grade is *Rules*.

Questions:

Before Reading:

1. When you hear the word “rules,” how do you feel and what comes to your mind?
2. Name some rules in your own life. What rules do your parents have for you? Are there rules in your classroom, at summer camps, at your friends’ houses?

During Reading:

1. Describe Catherine’s relationship with David. How does David stand in the way of what Catherine wants for herself? What has she done to try to resolve that?
2. What are Catherine’s feelings about Jason when she first meets him?
3. How do Catherine’s feelings change toward Jason as the book continues? What causes that change?
4. What do you think would’ve happened if Catherine had been honest right away with Kristi and told her about Jason? Why wasn’t Catherine honest? What do you think she was afraid of?
5. What does Catherine risk in inviting Jason to the dance? Do you think that risk was worth it? Why or why not?
6. What does Catherine give up at the dance? What does she give up in the final chapter with David?

After Reading:

1. If Catherine were to write a rule at the very end of the book, what do you think it would be?

Part III. Writing Activity

Rules is written in the first person from the point of view of Catherine. We can tell that it is written in 1st person because the author uses pronouns like *I*, *me*, *my*, or *mine*.

Your assignment: Reread the section in Rule 2 where Catherine is drawing Jason. *Rewrite this scene from either Jason’s or Mrs. Morehouse’s (Jason’s mom) point of view.* Think about what this character might have been thinking or feeling during this scene and tell their story. Your writing should be approximately two, quality paragraphs in length.

