

Summer Reading Incoming 5th Graders

Novel: Crash by Jerry Spinelli

This novel is a story of Crash Coogan, a seventh grade football sensation who makes his dweeby, vegetable-eating neighbor's life miserable. Crash and his best friend, Mike Deluca, target Penn Webb because he is different: After Mike takes a prank too far, Crash needs to choose which side he is really on.

Vocabulary

On separate index cards, use a dictionary to define the following vocabulary terms that are used in the novel. Print the word on one side of the card. Then on the opposite side, write the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective) of the vocabulary word and its definition. Be sure to choose the definition that relates to the way the word is used in the novel. Keep these notecards in a Ziploc bag labeled with your name on the front in Sharpie marker.

dinkiest (p. 7)

vegetarian (p. 21)

vermin (p. 101)

gawking (p. 2)

perky (p. 43)

campaign (p. 94)

Quaker (p. 12)

habitat (p. 76)

caper (p. 120)

scrawny (p. 3)

dud (p. 127)

demolish (p. 139)

Comprehension

While reading the novel, stop after each 5 chapters and write 3-4 sentences to summarize the important event(s) of those chapters. Complete these summary sentences on filler paper (or type on the computer), skipping lines between each set of chapters and labeling each set. Be sure to include your name on this document.

Example:

Chapters 1-5:

*John Coogan earned the nickname Crash at a very young age when he crashed into his cousin Bridget who was coming to visit on Christmas Day.

*Crash meets his new neighbor, Penn Webb, the summer before 1st grade when Penn's family moves in down the street from North Dakota.

*Crash has a little sister named Abby who likes to play with bugs and in the dirt.

*Crash is invited to dinner at the Webb's house and discovers that Penn and his family are Quakers and vegetarians.

After the Story

On the attached sheet of paper, create a comic strip to illustrate one of your favorite scenes from the story. Be sure to use conversation bubbles for your characters and to draw and color your pictures neatly.

CRASH COMIC by _____
