



# Summer Reading Assignment

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Boyd-Moline Library Media Center  
The First Academy

## Assignment

1. Read one of the suggested novels.
2. Identify two main characters from your novel and use a Double Bubble Map to compare and contrast them.
3. Decide if the characters portray a Christ-like attitude.
4. Write a paragraph describing these Christ-like attitudes using specific details from the story for support.

### Suggested Literature List

#### *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse—Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he should go to the one place he'll be safe: Camp Half Blood. Camp Half Blood is a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends—one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena—Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods. The Bible teaches us that our circumstances are not always what we would choose, but if we put our trust in God, he will lead the way to handle these struggles in His way and in His time. The main character discovers that biblical truth as he faces his “pre-algebra teacher.”

#### *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg

When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere, she wants to run to somewhere—to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money and thus can help with her serious cash flow problem, she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. The statue is possibly an early work of the Renaissance master Michelangelo, and therefore worth millions. Or isn't it? Claudia is determined to find out. This quest leads Claudia to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself. In 6th grade we focus on learning how to discover the theme, a lesson the author intends us to learn about life or human nature, and this novel explores the theme of human nature in a powerful way.

#### *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

This is a 1976 novel by Mildred D. Taylor, sequel to her 1975 novella *Song of the Trees*. It is a book about racism in America during the Great Depression through the eyes of a nine-year-old girl. The novel won the 1977 Newbery Medal. It is followed by two more sequels, *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* (1981) and *The Road to Memphis* (1990). This is a great novel that can be easily compared to our 6th grade class novel, *The Watsons go to Birmingham*.

*Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan

12-year-old Willow Chance is obsessed with nature, diagnosing medical conditions, and counting by 7s. Struggling to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, she leads a quietly happy life until both her parents die in an accident, leaving her alone in a confusing world. But Willow manages to push through her grief and find a substitute family. With a multicultural cast (Willow describes herself as a ‘person of colour,’ her new family is of mixed Vietnamese, African American, and Mexican heritage), bestselling *Counting by 7s* is a moving middle grade novel about loss, resilience, and the true meaning of family. We learn about “Daily Living,” walking in God’s word daily, in our 6th grade Bible class. This story is an example of that walk.

*It Ain’t So Awful, Falafel* by Firoozeh Dumas

In times of the anti-Iran sentiments of the 1970s, fitting in has become even more difficult for brainy loner Zomorod Yousefzadeh. Her family has just moved again, this time to Newport Beach, California, and she is determined to fit in, even changing her name to all-American Cindy. *It Ain’t So Awful, Falafel* is a moving yet lighthearted middle-grade novel from the author of best-selling *Funny in Farsi*. In 6th grade we learn how to analyze a character by their thoughts, actions, and what they say. Once the character is analyzed, we then can predict what the character will do next. Making predictions would be fun with this novel!

*Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco* by Judith Robbins Rose

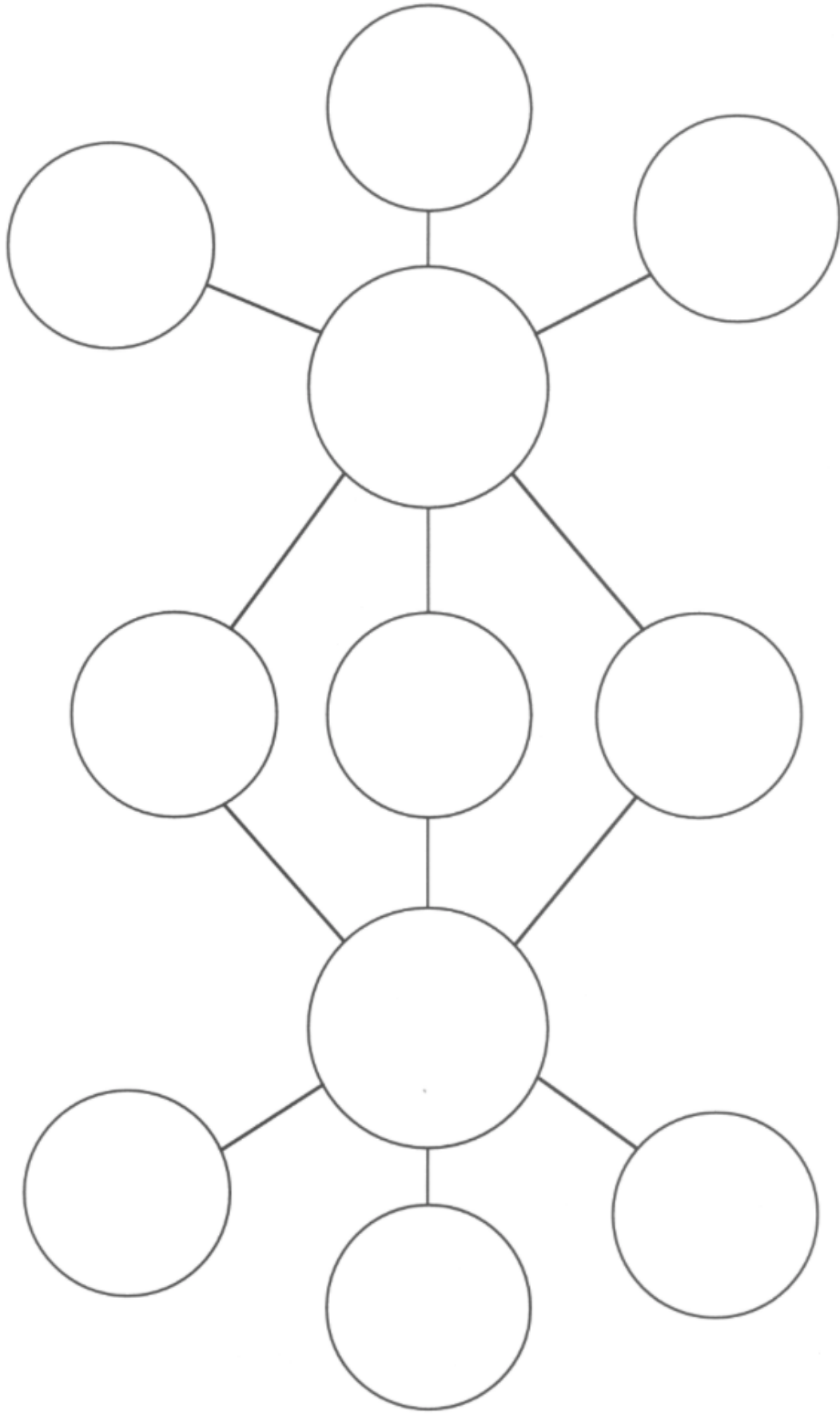
Daughter of undocumented Mexican immigrants, Jacinta Juarez doesn’t know much about the world outside her barrio. When a well-known news anchorwoman becomes her mentor after reporting on her youth center, Jacinta finds herself caught between two cultures. She wants to embrace a better future but also longs for the comfort of her family and the barrio. When her family is torn apart, Jacinta needs to find her own strength to pick up the pieces. *Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco* is a charming and authentic coming of age story, told with humor and sensitivity. One of our 6th grade reading skills is to interpret how the setting affects the plot of a story. This novel is a great example of a plot-driven by its setting. Through its character’s actions, it also exemplifies the strength we can find -only in God- to persevere through difficult times.

*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Bud, Not Buddy* centers around Bud Caldwell, a 10-year-old orphan who has grown up in Flint, Michigan. The book opens in 1936, four years after Bud’s mother’s death. Bud has just been placed with the Amoses, his third foster family. This was written by the same author as our 6th grade class novel, *The Watsons go to Birmingham*. We learn “What is Character?” from a biblical view. This story illustrates what Godly character looks like.

**Double Bubble Map**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_



**Double Bubble Map for Comparing (similarities) and Contrasting (differences)**