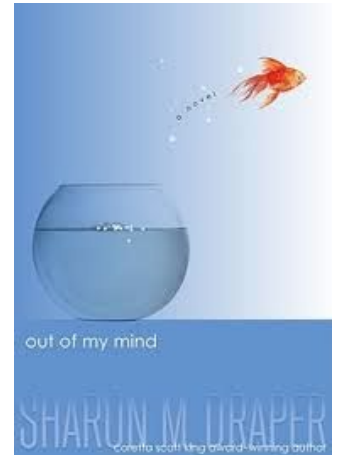
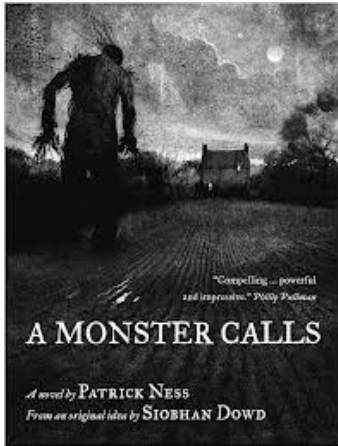


Great Neck South Middle School Seventh Grade Summer Reading Assignment

To prepare for our first unit of the year, "Heroes and Monsters," you will be reading *at least one* of these six popular young adult books featuring protagonists who face their fears. As a result of their courage, they understand themselves and their world in a deeper way. Remember that the more you read, the better reader you will become!



A Monster Calls
by Patrick Ness
(most challenging)

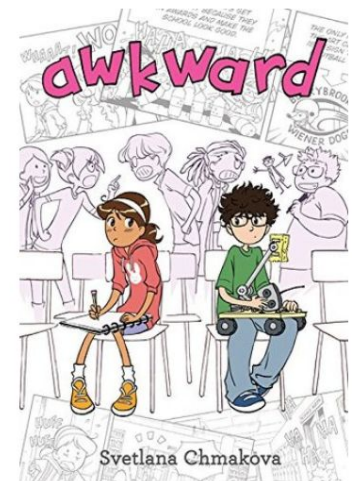
The Girl Who Drank the Moon
by Kelly Barnhill



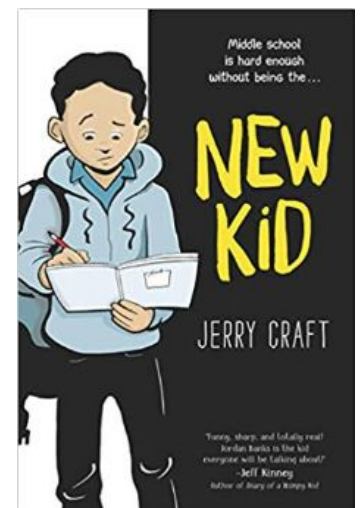
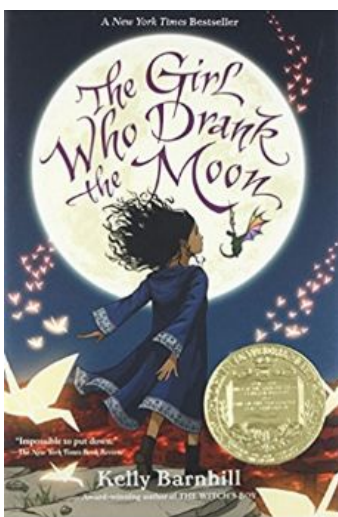
Dragon Pearl
by Yoon Ha Lee

New Kid
by Jerry Craft

Awkward
by Svetlana Chmakova



Out of My Mind
by Sharon M. Draper
(least challenging)



Seventh Grade Summer Reading Assignment

1. As you are reading, compose a **double-entry journal**. Write a minimum of 10 entries that respond to the **Questions to Consider**. Remember to write significant passages in the left-side column and analyze those passages in the right-hand column.
2. Read and annotate “Monster,” an essay exploring the definition and purpose of monsters in society. Have at least 5 annotations. The essay can be found at the end of this document.
3. In September, you will have an in-class reading and writing assessment.

Questions to Consider

CHARACTER

What kind of person is the hero? How does the hero change over the course of the book? Which characters act as the mentor, guide and ally? Which characters create obstacles? Who is the antagonist?

CONFLICT

What is the conflict? How does it intensify? How is it resolved?

SETTING

Describe the setting. How does the setting affect the character and plot?

THEME

What ideas of heroism are explored in the book? How does the hero face his or her fear? How can we apply this lesson to our own lives?

CONNECTIONS

How is this book similar to other books you have read? Compare character, conflict and/or theme.

Double-Entry Journal

How Do I Write a Double-Entry Journal?

- The **left side** will contain 10 meaningful **passages** from your book with **page numbers**.
 - If you wish to refer to a particularly large selection, you may use ellipses (...).
 - You get to choose the sentence/passage to which you want to respond.
- On the **right side**, you will answer the **Questions to Consider**. Analyze character, conflict, setting, and theme.
 - Make each entry at least 8-10 sentences.
 - Make connections across the beginning, middle, and end of the book.

SAMPLE Double-Entry Journal

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Page	Text Information/ Quotes	Your Analysis/Response
88	“After feeding, the mother flitted to a branch near the nest. She ruffled her wings and chest feathers, keeping an eye on her young. Watching the bird made Cole curse every second of his miserable and haphazard life. If he were the mother bird, he would just leave the babies to fend for themselves. She didn’t owe them anything.”	Cole lies there unable to move. He is hurt and scared, but he is still more angry than anything else. His upbringing and lack of maternal nurturing are still more powerful than anything he has encountered on the island—even the bear. Watching the mother bird bothers him more than it would bother other kids because it seems like all other living things get taken care of except him. Unfortunately, he wants to take it out on the birds, the bear, and any other living thing he can. I wonder how bad his life with his mother and father really was. I know that he was hit and his parents drank, but to be jealous of baby birds indicates that he still has a lot of resentment. I know he can be mean, but I still feel sorry for him.

The Story of Words

mon•ster

↓
monstrum
(Latin = a divine portent, an omen)

a new monthly feature about the origins of words

What do the monsters of your dreams look like? Are they gigantic, fantastic, and evil? Are they part bird, part beast, part human—a freakish amalgamation in the traditions of ancient Babylonian, Old English, Greek, and Hindu myth? Are they sinister and destructive, kicking people over cliffs, or setting the world afire, like the monsters who star in some Native American myths?

Monsters—vampires, giants, and ogres—are the supernatural creatures that parade through our fictions and nightmares. Today, we also use the word monster to describe people who are evil, but quite human. We also use the word more innocently, to describe something that is very large, as in a monster portion of pasta.

When the word monster first appeared in the English language, sometime around the year 1300, it was not used in any of the senses that we know today, but signified “an animal or plant deviating in one or more of its parts from the normal type.” A monster was something that differed from the norm. In 1400, Sir John Mandeville writes in his journal: “a monstre is a thing difformed agen Kynde (against nature) both of Man or Best.” A monster could be a lamb born with two heads, or one of those two-pronged carrots that come up in the garden every so often.

By the late 1300s, the word began to be used to describe more ominous supernatural creatures—“an imaginary animal (such as the centaur, sphinx, minotaur).” In the “Legend of Good Women,” Chaucer wrote: “This Minos hath a monstre, a wikked beste, That was so cruel thathe wolde him etc.”

In the late 16th century, the word started to be used to describe “a person of inhuman and horrible cruelty or wickedness.” We use the word in that sense today, to describe those who purposely inflict evil on others. Sadly, as the evening news tells us again and again, evil seems to be part of what it means to be human. So it is interesting that we use a word that connotes “otherness,” or *not* being human, to describe those who inflict suffering on others. Does this suggest that our language cannot contain the notion that evil is part of being human?

It took almost 300 years in the English language before the word came to indicate gigantic proportions. For example, if I say the house was a monster, we know that I’m saying it was huge, not a terrifying, fire-breathing edifice. If the diner

down the street is serving monster burgers, we know they are not skimping on the meat. If a novelist pens a monster of a book, we know that it is long, not a horror story.

The word monster can be traced back to the Old French “monstre” by way of the Latin “monstrum,” meaning “to warn, something marvelous, a divine portent, an omen, something extraordinary.” At first glance, it seems odd that something we associate with horror and evil originally signified a marvelous omen. Perhaps, this contradiction is not so odd. Cultures worldwide often see deviance from the norm in the natural world as a divine omen. Hundreds of years ago in Western culture, the birth of twins was considered an omen of disaster, and in some cultures it still is.

Perhaps, the monsters we create in our psyche and in our society are reflections of what we fear and cannot control. Frankenstein’s monster, Mary Shelley’s poignant creation, is considered by many to be the first modern monster, in that he embodied the huge and destructive potential of science. Thus, the monster image gives us a way to name our fears. What does the monster you dream of tell you about your self and the world in which you live?

—CATHERINE BOWMAN

TEST YOUR ROOTS

The definitions for ten words that share the root monstrum appear on the left-hand column. Fill in the blanks with the letters of the correct words from the answer list.

- | | | |
|---|-------|-----------------------|
| 1. a keepsake | _____ | A. reminiscent |
| 2. a commemorative statue or other structure | _____ | B. summon |
| 3. a remark or expression | _____ | C. demonstrate |
| 4. to illustrate or show how something is done | _____ | D. monitor |
| 5. to call forth | _____ | E. memento |
| 6. a teacher, a role model | _____ | F. premonition |
| 7. a hunch, a presentiment | _____ | G. monument |
| 8. suggestive or illustrative of something else | _____ | H. comment |
| 9. to protest | _____ | I. mentor |
| 10. to oversee, to supervise | _____ | J. remonstrate |

Double-Entry Journal

Title_____ Author_____

Page	Text Information/ Quotes	Your Analysis/Response 8-10 sentences