

Welcome to AES Fifth Grade Summer Reading

Once again, it is time to choose summer reading books in anticipation of the new school year. As fifth graders, you will read **three free choice fiction books that you have not previously read. You may continue to read from the "Fifty Favorites" list if you are working towards that goal, but that is not mandatory.**

For each book, you will write a **précis**. The word **précis** means summary; therefore, you will be composing summaries of your three novels. The key to writing a good précis is to stay concise, organized, and specific in your word choice. Because a précis is only seven sentences long, you must follow a structured format to complete it correctly. You will review and apply the following terms in your précis: **setting, character, plot, conflict, resolution/dénouement, and your opinion**. You can find the definitions for the terms below.

Setting: the time and place in which events in a story occur.

Character: a person, animal, or natural force presented as a person appearing in a literary work.

Plot: the sequence of events or actions in a story.

Conflict: the problem(s) in the story. It can be internal (man vs. self), external (man vs. man or society, man vs. nature, or man vs. supernatural).

Dénouement/resolution: outcome of the story.

Opinion: give your overall opinion of the book and explain your position.

Format for the Précis

Top line: Title of novel and author (Remember to underline or italicize book titles.)

Skip a line. (You must write the précis in single-spaced paragraph form. Indent the first sentence. If you are handwriting, use blue or black ink. If you are typing it, use a standard font size and type.)

1st Sentence: Discuss the setting.

2nd Sentence: Tell about the main character/characters.

3rd Sentence: Discuss the main conflict.

4th Sentence: Discuss the plot.

5th Sentence: Discuss more of the plot.

6th Sentence: Tell about the dénouement or resolution of the story.

7th sentence: Discuss your opinion of the novel.

Sample Précis

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

The story takes place in the English countryside during WWII. The main characters are siblings Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy Pevensie. The conflict begins when the children discover the magical land of Narnia and encounter an evil White Witch who has cast a spell on the land and has taken away Christmas. Edmund betrays his siblings and must forfeit his life to the White Witch. In turn, the White Witch murders Aslan, the lion who represents all good things and who sacrificed his own life so that Edmund can live. The story ends with Aslan coming back to life and defeating the White Witch and her force. I enjoyed this novel because I love to read about imaginary places.

Précis paragraphs may be submitted in three ways:

- a. Hand-written in blue or black ink; write on the fronts of pages only; staple the pages together. Turn in the first day of school.
- b. Type and staple the pages together. Turn in the first day of school.
- c. **Submitted online** (see attached directions). One bonus point for each online submission on or before July 31!
- d. **GUMS (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics and Spelling) will count, so please do your best.**

On-line posting directions

Go to <<http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/FifthGrade>

Click on “message board” on bottom left column

Click on “summer reading 2011-2012”

Click on “summer reading” again

Click on “instructions for summer reading”

Enter password - aes5

Click on “post reply”

Please feel free to contact us with questions. Happy reading and writing!

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