

Incoming 6th Grade Summer Reading

Midnight Magic by Avi

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

You can purchase the books online at Barnes and Noble or on Amazon Books. You need to have both books read before school starts in August. Please, follow all instructions below for both projects.

Book Report Menu

We all know what a menu looks like. We know that there are at least four different sections in a menu such as: appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, and desserts. We also know that in each of these sections a list of items are given along with a short description of the items. Another, important key factor of a menu is how it looks, because we will not look at a menu if it is not creatively done. Menus always need to capture your attention.

You will be completing a Book Report Menu project for the novel Midnight Magic by Avi. Please follow the menu form below and make sure that it is typed using 12 or 14 point font. You must double space your short paragraph answers. Watch for spelling and grammar errors.

Instructions:

Choose **TWO** questions from each section below. For each item, write the question and a short paragraph answer, using complete sentences. You should have at least **EIGHT** short paragraphs when you are finished. Be sure to include the title and the author of the book in your menu. The key to this project is to have fun and be creative making your menu!

Appetizers

- How did the cover art prepare you for this story? Describe it. Was the illustration accurate?
- Why do you think the author chose the book's title? Would you have chosen the same title? Explain why or why not.
- What was the novel's setting? Describe it.
- How did the first pages of this book grab your attention and make you want to keep reading?

Main Dishes

- What was the main problem in the story that the characters tried to solve? How did they solve it?

- What was the most important event in your book? Why did you choose it as most important?
- Does your novel teach a moral or a lesson? What is that lesson, and how does the book teach it?
- Was this book too hard to read, too easy to read, or just right? Explain your answer.

Side Dishes

- If you were able to meet one of the characters, what would you talk about? Why?
- What kinds of illustrations are used in your book? How did they help tell the story? If there were no illustrations, do you think they should be added? Why or why not?
- List five words in the book that are new to you, and give definitions for them from a dictionary.
- Is there an event in this book that reminds you of something that happened to you? Compare and contrast those two events.

Desserts

- If you were the author, would you have ended the story the same way, or would you end it differently? How would you end it? Why?
- What three questions would you ask the author if you could meet him or her? Why?
- Would you recommend this book to your best friend? Why or why not?
- How does this book rank compared to all the books you have read before? Is it stronger or weaker? Explain why.

Remember to be creativity making your menu.



Theme in a Bottle



You will complete the Theme in a Bottle project for Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. Follow the steps below to complete the project.

1. Read the book of your choice.
2. The main character (Winnie Foster) has decided to send a message in a bottle to shore and express what she has learned from her experiences to help others understand important life lessons.

Materials needed

- * bottle (large plastic soda bottle work well)
- * construction paper
- * scissors, rulers, ribbon
- * stickers, glitter glue, tissue paper, glue sticks or rubber cement
- * markers, crayons, colored pencils



3. Decorate the bottle with symbols or pictures that relate to the main character's message and to the theme of the story. For example, Annemarie Johansen in *Number the Stars* might put religious symbols of the courage and survival shown by herself, families and friends on the bottle.
4. You need to write a letter from the main character's point of view. The letter should express the main character's feelings about the life lessons she has learned throughout the course of the story. The letter needs to be typed and placed in the bottle.

Use the sample letter below as a model for your writing.

May 1945

To Whoever Finds This Bottle:

My name is Annemarie Johansen, and I am a twelve-year-old girl who lives in Copenhagen , Denmark . Today the war ended, and the Nazis who lives in Copenhagen , Denmark . Today the war ended, and the Nazis have been defeated. All over Denmark people are celebrating and bells are ringing. Finally, we are free!

In the last two years I have learned so much. Encountering the Nazi soldiers and their dogs taught me that real courage means facing your fears and moving through them to do what your heart tells you is right and just. Because the Danish people followed their hearts, we saved thousands of lives by hiding and transporting our Jewish friends to safety.

I've also learned how devastating and hideous war is. My heart ripped apart when a Nazi military car ran over my sister Lise. My friends as well as my family suffered grievously. My best friend Ellen Rosen and her parents had to leave their home and country just because they were Jewish. The Nazis were killing the Jews by the thousands, so we had to protect our friends by helping them escape. Then Lise's fiancé' Peter, who saved hundreds of Jews' lives, was captured and executed in the public square at Ryvangen. I wept for days and woke up screaming from nightmares in which I relived Peter's and Lise's tragic deaths. I pray for an end to man's inhumanity to man.

But even in the face of evil and horror that surrounds us, love and goodness prevailed because we acted with justice, compassion, courage, and conviction. Each of us listened to that still, small voice within us that guides us toward the light, and today the light conquered the darkness. If you find this letter, read it to your friends and family. Pass it from house to house. Let people hear my message and create a world where peace, justice, and human kindness prevail.

Love,

Annemarie Johansen

