

English Department

7th grade Summer Reading - Ms. Sawchuk

Study guide for *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko

As you enjoy your reading this summer, here are some questions to guide you. Look over them closely before and during your reading. Take notes, complete the activities, and come to school prepared to discuss your ideas.

1. From the beginning to the end of the novel, which characters seem to show signs of changing? How do they change? Do you think these changes will last?
2. How did Natalie really get accepted to school? What made Mr. Purdy suddenly decide to open another school? Did Moose's letter to Al Capone make a difference? Describe two or three possible scenarios to explain what may have happened.
3. Based on the title on the novel, what did you think this novel would be about before you read it? How was the story different from what you originally expected?
4. Research to learn more about Al Capone. Make a timeline to depict his life.
5. What is autism? Use the internet, reference books, or magazines to learn more about autism. Be ready to discuss which signs of autism Natalie displays. How has the treatment of autism changed since the 1930s?

7th Grade Summer Reading-- Mrs. Schneider

Study Guide for *Bad Boy: A Memoir* by Walter Dean Myers

As you read the novel by Walter Dean Myers, look over the questions below and take notes and answer questions about each. Come prepared with notes to discuss the novels in class, when you return to school. Enjoy the reading!

1. Walter Dean Myers makes it known that he would secretly check out books from the library in order to hide his hobby. In the time period Myers grew up, why did he think it was necessary to do this?
2. In a neighborhood surrounded by drugs, gangs and violence, why do you think Myers chose to read and write as a way to get away? Does Myers have any allies in his fight against these outside influences?
3. Walter Dean Myers's story is truly inspirational because of what he overcame to be a best-selling author. Do some research on speech impediments of all kinds and take some

notes on how this would make reading and writing much more difficult. Would you be able to overcome all these obstacles?

4. In order to fully understand the setting of Myers's life, we must know what New York City is like. He was born in West Virginia, but spent most of his childhood and teenage years in Harlem. On a separate sheet of paper, make a map of the city of Harlem, maybe labeling some of the important parts from the book. This may take some outside research.