

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders,

As the school year comes to an end, I am sure you are looking forward to a few months of fun and relaxation. I hope you find time to thoroughly enjoy yourselves this summer. In the spirit of fun and relaxation, I am asking that you find time **each day** to read. Reading is a great way to keep your mind and your imagination active during those warm summer days, and to stay in top shape for school.

Attached to this letter you will find your summer reading list, directions for your assignments, a scoring rubric for the assignments, and the handouts required for assignments #2 and #3. This summer your goal is to read at least three books from the list. Two books, *The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg and *The Book of Where* by Neill Bell each of you will read. You will also read at least one other book of your choosing from the list.

Below you will find directions for the three assignments that correspond to the three different books you read. Assignment #1 is a poster, Assignment #2 is a letter, and Assignment #3 is a critical thinking assignment. Assignment #2, the letter, can be mailed or dropped off at the school any time during the summer.

All three projects are due and will be collected by Thursday, September 2, 2010. Use the attached "Score Sheet" to help you do your best work because these three assignments will be your first ELA grade. Please email me ([mward@bfccps.org](mailto:mward@bfccps.org)) if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Happy Reading,  
Mrs. Ward

### **Assignment #1 - Character Virtues Poster** (Based on *The View from Saturday*)

**\*\*This assignment should be completed after reading *The View from Saturday*.**

You are **Mrs. Olinski** (role) and want **students, staff, and parents** (audience) to learn about the academic team you have chosen. **Introduce** (action) the members of your team through a **poster** (format) that highlights the **unique strengths and character virtues** (topic) of each person selected for the team. Use the virtues, Justice, Temperance, Prudence, and Fortitude, as defined by our school mission statement and found on the school website.

### **Assignment #2 - Creative Writing** (Based on *The Book of Where*)

**\*\*This assignment should be completed after reading *The Book of Where*.**

Write a friendly letter to your teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter can be dropped off at the school, mailed to your teacher (at the school: 201 Main Street, Franklin, MA), or brought with you the first day of school.

**Your one-page letter should include the following:**

- 1st paragraph: A short introduction, including your name, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book.
- 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book and a brief summary of the book.
- 3rd paragraph: Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, your reasons for the rating, and the most interesting thing you learned from the book.

### **Assignment #3 - Critical Thinking**

Using the "Create a Dot Image" worksheet provided, follow the directions on the worksheet to create an image related to an element of the story. (Elements of a story are the plot, character, setting, or problem.) Once your image is created, you should write a complete paragraph, using the Hamburger Model, explaining the image in relationship to the story's element. A graphic organizer to plan your paragraph is also included.

## Required Reading:

**The View From Saturday** by E.L. Konigsburg

**The Book of Where** (or How to be Naturally Geographic) by Neill Bell

(If you have trouble finding *The Book of Where*, you may read and write your letter about *Around the World in a Hundred Years: From Henry the Navigator to Magellan* by Jean Fritz, in it's place.)

Additional reading (at least one more book):

**The London Eye Mystery** by Slobhan Dowd

**Found** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

**The Big Field** by Mike Lupica

**Paint the Wind** by Pam Munoz Ryan

**The Twenty-One Balloons** by William Pene DuBois

**Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island** by Eve Bunting

**Behind the Bedroom Wall** by Laura E. Williams

**A Long Way from Chicago** or **A Year Down Yonder** by Richard Peck

**Under the Blood Red Sun** by Graham Salisbury

**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key \*\*and series\*\*** by Jack Gantos

**PS Longer Letter Later** or **Snail Mail No More** by Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin

**The Man in the Ceiling** by Jules Feiffer

**Ties That Bind, Ties That Break** by Lensey Namioka

**Guts: the true stories behind Hatchet** and the Brian Books by Gary Paulsen

**Chicken Boy** by Frances O'Roark Dowell

**H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute for Villainous Education)** by Mark Walden

**Counting on Grace** by Elizabeth Winthrop

**Shakespeare's Secret** by Elise Broach

**Double Identity** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

**I, Coriander** by Salley Gardner

**Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> Street** by Mike Lupica

**All of the Above: A Novel** by Shelley Pearsall

**The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini** by Sid Fleischman

**The 39 Clues, Book 3: The Sword Thief** by Peter Lerangis

**The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett

**George vs. George** by Roselyn Schanzer

## Parts of a Friendly Letter

There are five basic parts in a friendly letter: the heading, the salutation, the body, the closing, and the signature.

### 1 Heading

The heading includes your address and the date. Write the heading in the upper right-hand corner, about an inch from the top of the page.

### 2 Salutation

The salutation is a way of saying hello to the person you are writing to. It usually begins with the word *Dear* and is followed by the person's name. Place a comma after the person's name. Write the salutation at the left-hand margin, two lines below the heading.

### 3 Body

The body of the letter contains the thoughts and ideas you want to share. Begin writing on the second line after the salutation. Keep the paragraphs short for easy reading.

### 4 Closing

The closing is a way of saying good-bye. Write your closing two lines below the body of the letter. Capitalize only the first word and follow the closing with a comma. Here are some closings to choose from:

**Love, Sincerely, Your friend, Respectfully, Regards,**

### 5 Signature

The signature is the final part of a friendly letter. Write it beneath the closing. Your first name is usually enough, unless the person you are writing to doesn't know you very well.

### 6 P.S.

A postscript is an afterthought that you write at the end of a letter. The letters *P.S.* stand for the Latin words *post* (meaning "after") and *script* (meaning "write").

**Note:** See pages 254-255 for help if you are writing a letter or friendly note via e-mail.

\* From *Write Source 2000* © 1999

## Sample Friendly Letter

1

100 Maple Road  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
November 12, 2000

2

Dear Benny,

While you were having your vacation day last Friday, I had to go to school. I even had to take a big test in social studies. I guess Eastwood Middle School doesn't believe in days off. You're so lucky. I sure wish my school was more like yours.

How's your football team doing? My soccer team was undefeated this season. We won all nine of our games, including the big one against Great Neck. I scored a goal—kind of. I kicked the ball real close to the goal, and the other team accidentally knocked it in!

3

The funniest mistake happened on my sister Ilene's birthday. All of her friends came to our house to surprise her when she got home from school. Usually, Ilene and I get home at the same time, but that day I got home before her. When I opened the door, everybody yelled, "Surprise!" When they realized it was me, they were the ones who were surprised.

How have you been doing in school? My classes are much harder than last year, but I'm still doing pretty well. Spanish and social studies are my favorite subjects this year. Spanish is interesting and pretty easy for me. *Mi profesora, Sra. Morales, es muy amable.* Social studies is a lot of fun because Mr. Erin tells lots of jokes.

I decided that since we're such good friends, we could write letters to each other. Actually, I had to write a friendly letter for English class, so I wrote to you.

4

Your friend,

5

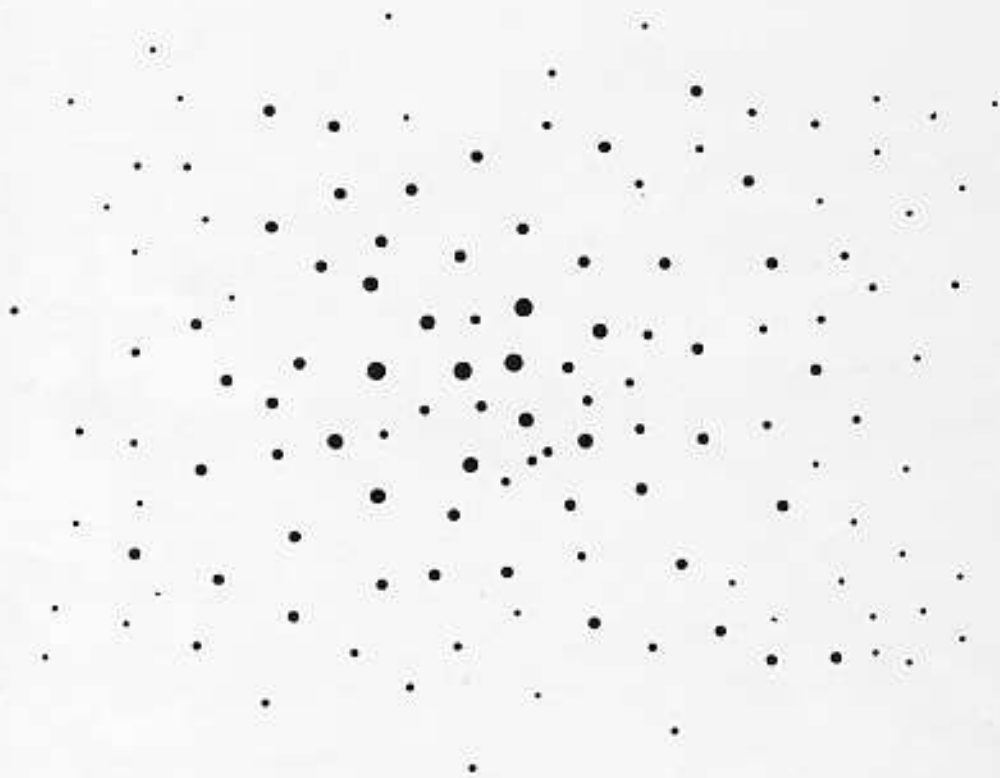
Nathan

6

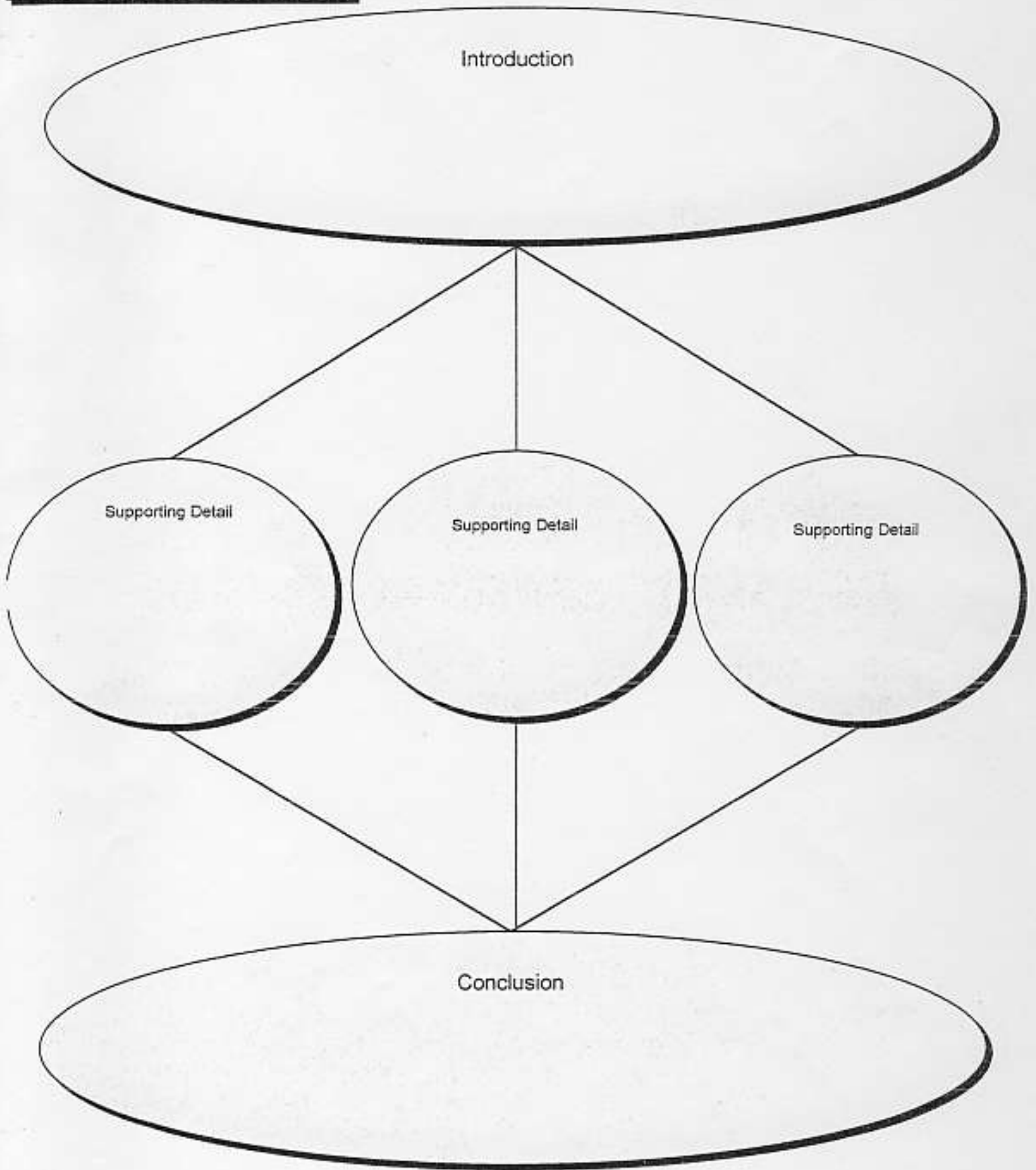
P.S. I hope you'll write back. This could be fun!

# Create a Dot Image

Connect the dots in any way you wish to create a realistic or an abstract image. The image must be related to some element within a story you just read. Shade in with pencil or color parts of the image, if you wish, to accent your drawn image. Explain the image in relationship to the story's element.



# Hamburger Model



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment: Score Sheet for Summer Reading Assignments-2010

1=Weak

2=Moderately Weak

3=Average

4=Moderately Strong

5=Strong

<b>ASSIGNMENT #1: Character Virtues Poster</b>	
The poster is neat and organized	
All four characters are represented on the poster	
The strengths of each character are clearly stated	
The virtues of each character are clearly stated	
The poster is creative and visually appealing	
<b>ASSIGNMENT #2: Creative Writing</b>	
The letter has three neat and organized paragraphs	
The letter includes facts about you	
The letter includes a summary of a book	
Your personal rating of the book with reasons	
The most interesting thing you learned	
Use of the friendly letter format	
<b>ASSIGNMENT #3: Critical Thinking</b>	
Picture is neat, organized, and creative	
"Create a Dot Image" worksheet is used for the picture	
Picture is clearly connected to an element of the story	
Paragraph uses the Hamburger Model	
Paragraph clearly explains the connection between the image and story	
Graphic organizer is used to plan the paragraph	
All work: The spelling, punctuation, and grammar are accurate	
All work includes your first and last name	
All work includes the title and author of the book read	
<i>Earn 2 bonus points: Fill out the heading on this form and return it with your work</i>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	