

IMPORTANT FACTS: Write eight important facts about the story. Use descriptive language and plenty of detail. A fact may include more than one sentence. Try to use all three lines for each fact.

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Student: SAMPLE

Novel: Gib Rides Home



Summer Reading Packet

CHARACTER DESCRIPTORS: List six characters from the novel and briefly tell a little about each one. Tell who the character is and use some descriptive adjectives and adverbs. These descriptors do not have to be in complete sentences, but the first letter of the first word should be capitalized.

Character Name:

Character Descriptor:

Gibson Whittaker

Orphaned boy, hard worker, loyal, smart, trustworthy

Julia Thornton

Compassionate, loving mother of Olivia, unable to walk

Livy Thornton

Tempermental, moody young girl, secretly likes Gib

Henry Thornton

Stubborn, unforgiving ranch owner, protective of daughter

Miss Mooney

Caring, dedicated, respectful teacher at Lovell House

Agnes Hooper

Capable, efficient, very organized caretaker at the ranch

PLOT SYNOPSIS: Write a paragraph that summarizes the plot of the novel. This synopsis should feature three main components: SET-UP (main character, setting, information to introduce the story), RISING ACTION (what happens as the story begins to unfold), and RESOLUTION (how the conflict is resolved, what happens at the end). There should also be a concluding comment about theme, character, or author's intent.

During the early 1900's in a small rural Arizona town, eleven-year-old Gibson Whittaker, an orphaned boy, dreams of belonging to a real family. After enduring a difficult life at the Lovell House Orphanage for several years, he is finally farmed-out to a family where he works hard on their ranch, learns to care for horses, and wonders if one day he may be adopted. Over the next several months, Gib continues to put in long hours and do his chores conscientiously, earning the respect of almost everyone at the ranch. Just as he begins to feel comfortable with the family, he is wrongly blamed for endangering the owner's young daughter, and he is immediately returned to the orphanage. Even during the worst of times, Gib remains positive about life and hopeful about his future.

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1. Deeply touched by the tragic story of Georgie Olsen, Olivia cried bitter tears, and she wanted to hear more about Georgie as well as the other boys Gib knew during his years at the Lovell House Orphanage.
2. When Gib first saw Black Silk, he was astonished by the beauty of this majestic horse. His admiration continued to grow after he discovered that his own mother once had the chance to ride on this incredible steed.
3. Adopting Gib after his mother passed away was always a distinct possibility for Julia Thornton, but it was not until Hy Carter's injury that her husband reluctantly agreed to bring Gib to the ranch as a farm-out.
4. Gib wondered if he would ever be able to understand Livy's strange behavior, mood swings, and true feelings, but deep inside he knew that she felt great love and respect for her parents. She also had a soft spot in her heart for him.
5. Gib was sent to the Repentance Room, scolded by his teachers, and denied supper as a punishment for something he did not do. Despite evidence to the contrary, he was not at fault for writing a swear word on his test paper.
6. Livy Thornton was four months younger than Gib, very stubborn, quite moody, and intrigued by horses. Her interest in horses was inherited from her mother, but unlike Julia who was calm and even-tempered, Livy was hot-headed and emotional.
7. The memory of his early childhood was unclear in Gib's mind, prompting him to frequently ask Hy Carter questions about what his parents were like several years ago. Hy had many tales to tell, and there was no end to Gib's curiosity.
8. When he spotted Olivia riding Black Silk, Mr. Thornton was enraged and immediately blamed Gib, deciding that it was too dangerous for the boy to remain at the Rocking M Ranch in such close proximity to his daughter.

FRIENDSHIP SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT

Completing The Summer Reading Booklet

All incoming sixth grade students are required to complete two sections of the enclosed booklet. Each section is two pages. A sample section has been completed at the back of the packet.

The packet actually contains space for students to complete three sections. Here are the advantages of reading more than the required two novels and completing more than the required two sections:

- A. Students will receive a higher grade on the booklet if more sections are completed.
- B. Students will be taking Accelerated Reader tests on each novel. All AR points earned during the summer will count toward the first quarter requirement in reading class.
- C. Earning additional AR points will count toward the 6th grade AR field trip (150 points) as well as special awards and plaques.
- D. Students who read four or more novels, complete a section for three of them, and take AR tests on all four will have their pictures on display in the READING WALL OF FAME and they will receive a very special prize at the end of September.

Students will not be eligible for our camp trip if two sections of the booklet are not completed during the summer. No excuses will be accepted.

This booklet is the first assignment students will be completing for junior high. It is an opportunity to make a good first impression.

Instructions For Completing A Section Of The Booklet For Each Novel

- A. Students will receive a higher grade if answers are complete. Since there are eleven lines for a plot summary and three lines for each fact, think ahead to make best use of the lines provided. Writing only one or two lines when more are provided would not be considered a "complete" answer.
- B. Writing detailed facts will help students when they review their packet before taking the test. Students are expected to write in complete sentences with proper spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. A variety of sentence structures is expected. Samples are provided and identified.

If the booklet is truly lost during the summer, contact Friendship Junior High and leave a message on the answering machine. We will contact you to make arrangements for a replacement packet.