

May 27, 2021

Dear Students and Parents:

This summer we are asking rising 7th graders to read one of two novels, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell or *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. You may purchase your book of choice at area bookstores, check it out of a local library, or find the book online. Students must login to their ORTN accounts to access the online book.

Where the Red Fern Grows

[Click here for the link](#)

Island of the Blue Dolphins

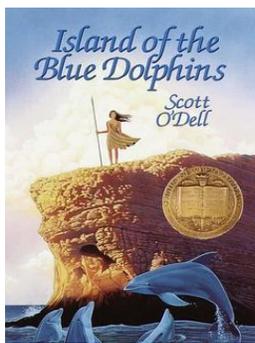
[Click here for the link](#)

To encourage careful reading and thinking about the novel, each student, upon return to school, will turn in a book report on his or her chosen novel. The book report should be turned in no later than the Friday of the week we return to school. Please see the format below.

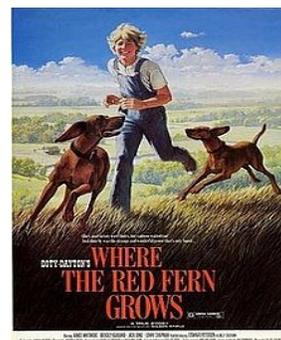
If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Humphrey at jhumphrey@ortn.edu or Mrs. Sears at crsears@ortn.edu.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Sears



Island of the Blue Dolphins
By Scott O'Dell



Where the Red Fern Grows
By Wilson Rawls

Middle School Summer Assignment

Each student must create a book report using the format provided.

Middle School Book Report Format

Paragraph Order:

1. Introduction
2. Setting and characters—this part may need to be broken into separate paragraphs depending on the length of character description.
3. Plot
4. Plot Resolution
5. Conclusion

Paragraph Description:

1. The **introduction** contains the main idea of the book. It also includes book title and author.
2. The **setting** describes the time (time period) and location.
3. The **characters** names and describes the major characters but may also mention minor groups of characters.
4. The **plot** explains what the major character(s) attempt to do. Some examples are: to discover; to overcome; to adapt; to learn; to find; to become; to mature; to solve; to conquer. Tell the difficulties encounter. There is often more than one problem. Sometimes one problem leads to another.
5. The **plot resolution** tells how the final problems are solved. How does everything work out? What is the final attitude of the main character(s)?
6. The **conclusion** provides an evaluation of the book. What was the author's purpose? Does the book teach a lesson or a moral? Are the characters role models? Is it recommended? To whom? Why or why not?

****Paragraphs should not be labeled or numbered; they should flow together smoothly. Each paragraph should be at least five sentences in length. Avoid using first person (I, me, my) until the conclusion. Also avoid using second person (you) and contractions. Your book report will probably be around a page and a half to two pages in length.****

Some examples and ideas to get your paragraphs started. (Do not be afraid to show a creative writing style. You are welcome to change the sentence starters as you see fit.)

(1) Introduction:

Name the book title and author. Present the main idea: Why the book is unique/different?

Although there have been similar books, this book is unique because **who? does what? and where?** Make sure to include a **Topic Sentence** to begin each paragraph

Example: What would it be like to be thrust into a new land by a tornado? Such an adventure happens to Dorothy in the book, The Wizard of Oz, by Frank Baum. In this book, Dorothy helps the Tin Man, Scarecrow, and Lion find the qualities they seek while they all travel in the land of Oz. Along the way Dorothy encounters some fun and frightening situations. Most of all, she learns some valuable lessons.

(2) Setting: One reason this book is appealing is due to its setting. (Then describe setting)

(3) Characters: Another reason this book is different is because of its characters OR is that its characters are all _____ (give description). List and describe main characters. You may also list minor characters (details about these are not needed).

(4) Plot: In addition to the setting and characters, the plot adds (or the problems add) to the distinctiveness of the book. **In the next few sentences, describe the situations encountered by the characters.

(5) Plot resolution: The way in which the problems(s) are solved is unexpected... (explain what happens and how the conflicts are resolved).

(6) Conclusion: This book is appealing OR recommended (or not recommended) because _____ (describe why). Because of _____ (describe and explain) the book would be best for _____ (age group and/or gender). The main character (or any role model character) is a role model because _____ (explain why).