

To all incoming 6th Grade Students,

I have selected two novels that I think you will truly enjoy. Included in this packet are handouts of activities and writing prompts for each book.

In addition to Summer reading, spend time with Lexia, IXL, and Newsela and keep a journal. Journaling is your opportunity to “free” write thoughts and ideas and create stories and poems.

Enjoy!

Mrs. Grober

Your **SUMMER ELA ENRICHMENT** will center around two novels:

1. ***OUT OF MIND*** by Sharon Draper

https://englishcreek.weebly.com/uploads/6/9/7/2/6972564/out_of_my_mind.pdf

Sharon Draper wrote ***Out of My Mind*** based on her experiences raising a disabled child. It is about 10-year-old Melody Brooks, who has cerebral palsy and cannot speak or move around without a wheelchair. She encounters prejudice from other kids because she is different and she has to fight to get her wishes.

2. **CLASS ACT** by Jerry Craft

<https://www.pdfread.net/ebook/class-act-jerry-craft/>

Class Act is a graphic novel by Jerry Craft. It is a sequel to *New Kid*. The story is about an eighth grade African American student at Riverdale Academy Day School, Drew Ellis. There are sketches done in pencil, termed by the author to be "intermissions."

ACTIVITIES FOR *OUT OF MIND* by Sharon Draper (Handout)

1. Complete the Idea Chart. Although Melody is able to do everyday tasks, there are many she cannot do. Make a list of what she can do with ease and a list of tasks that are challenging.
2. Inventor's Brainstorm- Imagine that you are an inventor. What invention would you create to make Melody's life easier?

ACTIVITIES FOR *CLASS ACT* by Jerry Craft

Select three activities: (Handout)

1. Create a Venn Diagram
2. Write a play
3. Make a diorama
4. Make a chart for Drew
5. Write an epilogue
6. Create a cartoon strip
7. Write a song or poem
8. Create a board game
9. Research any topic from the book

WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR *OUT OF MIND*

Choose two essays:

1. Melody's struggle with her peers is a central conflict in the book. Providing specific examples from the text, discuss what Melody learns about friendships, relationships, and herself throughout the novel.
2. Explain and discuss the title of the novel; what are some possible interpretations?
3. From Melody's **perspective**, the ability to easily communicate and converse is a skill that she desperately wishes to have. Using examples from the book, evaluate how powerful words and language can be when used as a social, communicative tool.
4. Discuss Melody's feelings and attitude toward school. How does she fit in with her classmates in some scenarios, and not in others? What makes Melody so different from the other "special needs" students in her room?

WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR *CLASS ACT*

Character Sketches for Drew and one other character of your choice (Handout)