

# Summer Reading Boys' Academy 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Book: *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**

<https://a.co/d/a2VcGrW>

*Monster* is a New York Times bestselling novel and National Book Award nominee from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers. *Monster* tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

Read the entire book and complete the assignments, you will be asked about various details in this fast-paced, suspenseful screenplay during the first week of school. Your Social Studies, Literature and Ethics and ELA teachers will give you instructions on how, when and where to submit your summer reading assignments.

## 1. Interview Assignment

**Interviews-** The purpose of the Interview assignment is to demonstrate the following reading strategies: question the text, make predictions, draw inferences, and make connections. This task is driven by the following English Language Art standards: *ELAGSE6-8W4*: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience; and *ELAGSE6-8RI1*: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Select two characters to interview. Write 6 interview questions and responses from the character's perspective. Two questions must be about the character's thoughts about the trial; two questions should be about police evidence; two questions witness testimony.

- Steve Harmon
- Sandras Petrocelli
- Kathy O'Brien
- Asa Briggs
- Judge
- James King
- Richard "Bobo" Evans
- Osvaldo Cruz
- Lorelle Henry
- Mr. Sawicki
- Mr. Harmon
- Mrs. Harmon
- Alguinaldo Nesbitt

Questions and responses must be written in complete sentences with proper capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. (Your responses can be written in dialect but not your interview questions.) If you need more information on dialect, click this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbc4R9bJ32E> (This assignment will be submitted to your *ELA & Communication* teacher.)

## 2. Theme Assignment

**Themes-** The purpose of this task is to demonstrate scholars' ability to identify key ideas and determine themes. This is also an opportunity for scholars to demonstrate their ability to use technology to produce and publish writing. This assignment supports English Language Arts standards: *ELAGSE6-8RL2*: Determine a theme and/or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details;

provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments. (Domain: Key Ideas and Details); and *ELAGSE6W6*: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Create a Google Slide or Canva presentation that highlights three themes in *Monster*. Make sure each of your selected themes fall under one of the following categories: lies and betrayal, justice, and guilt.

You must have one slide per theme. Each slide must contain the following three elements:

1. Image(s) that represent the theme
2. A caption from the text that relates to the theme
3. Your statement of what you think the theme is

Each theme statement must be communicated in a full statement. If you need more information on how to find a theme, click this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaipS229HOY> (This assignment will be submitted to your Ethics and Literature teacher).

### 3. Journal Entry Assignment

The required reading, *Monster*, is written as confessional literature, writing that reveals personal revelations and secrets. Although *Monster* is a screenplay, the main character writes emotional journal entries about the trial.

For the Journal Entry assignment, you will create a journal entry from the perspective of each of the characters below. The journal entry should be about what happened on the day the trial began.

Steve Harmon  
Richard “Bobo” Evans  
Osvaldo Cruz  
James King

Each journal entry must be at least two paragraphs and use proper grammar, usage, and mechanics. This assignment will be submitted to the ELA and Communications teacher. The Point of View Journal Entries assignment supports English Language Arts standard. *ELAGSE6RL6*: Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

**If you are interested in additional summer reading, the following books are suggested:**

1. *Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom* (NF) – 1050L
2. *Somewhere in the Darkness*: Walter Dean Myers – 640L
3. *Bud Not Buddy*: Christopher Curtis – 950L
4. *Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah – 780L
5. *Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice*, by Bryan Stevenson – 1040L