



6th GRADE GENTS

6th Grade 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.

Directions: After reading the book complete both assignments as instructed. Each assignment will be submitted to the Literature and Ethics teacher during the first week of school. These will be your first grades for the 2026-2027 school year. It is VERY IMPORTANT for you to read the book prior to the first day of school. You will continue to discuss and have assignments related to your summer reading throughout the month of August.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Interviews- The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate scholars' ability to analyze the development of a text from the author's and the audience's perspective.

Select two characters to interview. **Write** 8 interview questions and responses from the character's perspective for two of the characters listed below:

- 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

Do not ask "Who", "Where", or "When" questions. Interview questions should provide a deeper insight into a person's personality (thoughts, feelings, values, etc.) 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. Type the interview assignment in **12-point Times New Roman, single-spaced**. If you need more information on dialect, click this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbc4R9bJ32E>

Assignment 2: Character Identity and Change

Steve Harmon's identity is shaped by how others see him and how he sees himself. Describe one event that causes Steve to question who he is. How does he change because of that moment?

Response Directions:

- Write **two paragraphs** in Microsoft Word using **2-point Times New Roman, double-spaced**.
- Include **one quote** from the book to support your analysis.
- Save the file as: Your Last name_SteveCharacter.doc



7th GRADE GENTS

7th grade Book: *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

<https://a.co/d/00GsOyXE>

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius' family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali.

Directions: After reading the book, complete both assignments as instructed. Each assignment must be submitted to your Literature and Ethics teacher during the first week of school. These will be your first grades for the 2026-2027 school year. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** for you to read the book prior to the first day of school. You will continue to discuss and complete assignments related to your summer reading throughout the month of August.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Character Development — Cassius's Evolution

Create a character timeline that shows how Cassius Clay grows as an athlete and a young man. Choose 3 key moments in the book that show his character developing over time.

For each moment, explain:

1. What happened
2. What Cassius did or believed
3. What does this reveal about his character?

How to Respond:

- Type in Microsoft Word
- 12-point Times New Roman, single-spaced
- Submit a one-page document with one paragraph (4–6 sentences) for each of the 3 key moments

Assignment 2: Theme Exploration — The Heart of a Champion

Identify a central theme of the book (such as resilience, fighting injustice, or self-belief). Choose two pieces of evidence from the book that support this theme. Explain how each piece of evidence connects to the theme in your own words.

How to Respond:

- Type a short response in Microsoft Word
- Begin with 1 sentence stating the theme
- Then write two short paragraphs (4–5 sentences each), one for each piece of evidence
- 12-point Times New Roman, single-spaced



8th GRADE GENTS

8th Grade Book: *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. <https://a.co/d/a195WDj>

This is the story of a young Black man who feels like no one really sees him—not because he’s invisible like a superhero, but because people ignore who he really is. Everyone he meets tries to tell him what to do, how to act, or what kind of person he should be. He wants to find his own voice and figure out his purpose in a world that keeps pushing him aside. As he travels through school, work, and big city life, he faces racism, unfair treatment, and confusion about who he is. Along the way, he learns powerful lessons about identity, truth, and standing up for yourself—even when the world tries to shut you down. This book is deep, powerful, and makes you think about how we treat each other—and how we find our place in a complicated world.

Directions: After reading the book complete all three assignments as instructed. Each assignment will be submitted to the Literature and Ethics teacher during the first week of school. These will be your first grades for the 2026-2027 school year. It is VERY IMPORTANT for you to read the book prior to the first day of school. You will continue to discuss and have assignments related to your summer reading throughout the month of August.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Character Identity Map – Who Is He Becoming?

The narrator in *Invisible Man* changes as he faces racism, invisibility, and identity struggles. Identify three key scenes where the narrator questions who he is or how others see him. For each scene, explain how his thoughts or actions show changes in his identity.

How to Respond:

- Create a chart or type 3 short paragraphs (4–5 sentences each)
- Use Microsoft Word, Calibri font, size 12
- Label each paragraph with the chapter number or scene title

Assignment 2: Plot Shift Analysis – Turning Points

Choose **two major turning points** in the story where the narrator is forced to make a decision or where his life changes direction. For each turning point:

- Briefly describe the event
- Explain what changed and how it affected his view of the world

How to Respond:

- Write two paragraphs (5–6 sentences each)
- Use **Microsoft Word, Calibri, size 12 font**
- Add a title for each paragraph such as “Turning Point 1: The Battle Royal”

Assignment 3: Then and Now – Invisible Today?

The narrator says he feels "invisible" because of how society treats him. Think about someone today (real or fictional) who also feels unseen or unheard. Write one paragraph comparing that person's experience to the narrator's. Then write a second paragraph about what this story teaches us about seeing and valuing others.

How to Respond:

- Two paragraphs (5–6 sentences each)
- Type in Microsoft Word, Calibri, size 12 font
- Include the name of the modern person or character you're comparing