

Finley Falcon Summer Readers Advancing to 8th Grade - 2016

Dear Future 8th Grade Falcons:

Summer is almost here and you've earned a vacation! This is a great time to unwind and spend time with your family and friends. It's also a wonderful time to look back on your school year and prepare for September in an enjoyable way. How can you prepare? Well, besides getting supplies early, you can participate in the *Finley Falcon Summer Reading Challenge!*

If you do a great job and complete all the challenges presented, you could earn up to +5% extra-credit on your 1st Quarter Report Card average in English and +5% in Social Studies! Yes, it's true! Now, wouldn't that be a great way to start the school year?

Here's how it works:

In 8th grade English and Social Studies classes you will be exploring the theme of ***Motivation***. So, you must keep this in mind as part of your responses in order to get the most credit. ****Be sure to include what "Level" medal you are going for at the top of your work. Also include your name, the title(s) and the author(s) in a clearly visible heading.***

I. Challenge Level 1 (Bronze Medal Falcon) – Complete the following tasks and earn *up to* +2%:

- a). Read **one** of the suggested titles **from the lists provided** (including ***www.BrainHive.com*** choices) for English and/or Social Studies.
- b). Write or type **your own summary** of the book's events or information. It must be legible and not plagiarized (copied from another source).
- c). On a separate sheet, answer these questions:
 - What is *motivation*? Write a quality definition from a dictionary. Use the term *motivation* in a sentence.
 - What do you think inspires *motivation*? Explain.
 - What examples of *motivation* did you recognize in the book you read? Explain.

II. Challenge Level 2 (Silver Medal Falcon) – Complete the following tasks and earn up to +4%:

- a). Complete all of the Bronze Medal requirements for **one or two books**.
- b). Write an explanation of what you believe prevents people from finding *motivation*. What works against a person's *motivation*?
- c). On a separate sheet of paper, cite (copy word for word) a memorable passage or paragraph from the book or books **that connect to the theme of motivation**. Be sure to use "quotation marks" at the start and end of the chosen section. Also, include the (page # and paragraph#) in parentheses.
- d). Lastly, write a paragraph underneath each memorable passage you cited explaining why you chose this passage/paragraph and give at least 2 specific follow up reasons that refer to the section of text chosen. *Try your best to connect it to the theme of motivation*. It must be written in the form of a quality paragraph for full-credit.

III. Challenge Level 3 (Gold Medal Falcon!) – Complete the following tasks and earn up to +5%:

- a). Complete all of the Bronze and Silver Medal requirements.
- b). As you read, keep a **"reader's journal"** with a minimum of 10 journal entries. Entries may be interesting dialogue, new vocabulary words, figurative language, historical references, descriptive passages, foreshadowing, plot twists or anything you think is worth noting. Remember, your "Personal Response" should not be an explanation of what the words mean, but instead what the selection makes you *think about* or *makes you feel* as a reader. **Use the attached directions and example of a reader's journal as a guide.**
- c). Write a one-page response (typed if possible) for each book answering the following prompts:

*"How does a main character or real life person in the book you read find **motivation** in response to a conflict (problem or tense situation)? What do you think the **central idea** of the book is and why? Remember to use text evidence to support your ideas."*

- d). Get creative! Create a colorful cover for your work, make a collage of images connected to the book, draw a favorite scene, make a website, take photos connected to the assignment with appropriate comments and print them out (like Instagram!), create a pretend facebook page for the characters/people, turn your journal into a pretend "blog", write a song and record it, make a video, compose a poem about transitions, etc... It's totally up to you! Just be sure that you can explain your project and its connection to the chosen book. Your new teachers will be *very impressed!*

Finley Falcon Summer Reading Challenge Checklist - Advancing to 8th Grade

Named my GOAL and put a heading with the book title!

BRONZE MEDAL FALCON - up to +2%

READ one of the books on the lists.

WROTE my own summary.

ANSWERED bulleted questions

SILVER MEDAL FALCON - up to +4%

Completed all BRONZE MEDAL requirements.

WROTE about what prevents/works against inner motivation (part b).

CITATION of connected passage or paragraph.

PARAGRAPH explaining why chosen and connection

GOLD MEDAL FALCON - up to +5%

Completed all BRONZE MEDAL requirements.

Completed all SILVER LEVEL requirements.

READER'S JOURNAL - 10 entries and reactions

One page RESPONSE (Essay) to prompts.

CREATIVE PROJECT!