Finley Falcon Summer Readers
Advancing to 7th Grade - 2015

Dear Future 7th 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 7th grade English and Social Studies classes you will be exploring the theme of Transitions. 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 a summary of the book’s events or information. It must be neat and your own words!
   c). On a separate sheet, answer these questions:
      - What is a transition? Write a quality definition from a dictionary. Use the term transition in a sentence.
      - What do you think causes transitions? 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). 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 transitions. Be sure to use “quotation marks” at the start and end of the chosen section. Also, include the (page # and paragraph#) in parentheses.
   c). 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 transitions. 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 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 Reaction” 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 sample of a reader's journal as a guide.
   c). Write a one-page response (typed if possible) for each book answering the following prompt:

   “What transition or transitions did the main character or real life people experience based on your understanding from the reading?”

   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 7th 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 the bulleted questions.

**SILVER MEDAL FALCON** - up to +4%
Completed all BRONZE MEDAL requirements.
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 - wrote 10 entries and reactions.
One page RESPONSE (Essay) to prompt finished.
CREATIVE PROJECT!
SUMMER READING LIST

Advancing to 7th Grade 2015  Theme: Transitions

ENGLISH CLASS BOOK CHOICES

Fiction:

Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Crash by Jerry Spinelli
Say Yes by Audrey Couloumbis
Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Jack’s Run by Roland Smith

www.Brainhive.com (Use your student ID to log on)

American Hip-Hop: Rappers, DJs, and Hard Beats (audio book) By: Nathan Sacks
Touchdown: The Power and Precision of Football’s Perfect Play (audio book) By: Mark Stewart

SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS BOOK CHOICES

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
Sarah Bishop by Scott O’Dell
When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson by Barry Denenberg (Dear America)
Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie The Oregon Trail Diary by Kristiana Gregory (Dear America)
Johnny Tremain: The story of Boston in Revolt Against the British by Esther Forbes
The Fighting Ground By Avi

www.Brainhive.com (Use your student ID to log on)

Young Patriots: Inspiring Stories of the American Revolution By: Marcella Fisher Anderson
How Did Tea and Taxes Spark a Revolution? Six Questions Series By: Linda Gondosch
Ghost Walls: The Story of a 17th-Century Colonial Homestead By: Sally Walker
Reader's Journal – Directions & Examples of 4 entries

For each book you read, you are to do the following in order to earn **GOLD MEDAL FALCON** status (up to +5% extra-credit!). Remember – 10 entries with **Personal Responses** required.

Put a full-heading on top of your paper.
On the top line of your paper, center the chapter number and page numbers.
Then divide your paper into two halves, lengthwise.
Label the left hand column **CONTENT** (Key Quotations and Text Citations).
Label the right hand column **PERSONAL RESPONSE** (What I think, know, wonder etc...).
Write the page number and paragraph number, in parentheses, before each quote or passage.

For different sections of the book, **find significant quotes or passages** that exemplify (represent in the best way) major events in the text, stand out, demonstrate skillful writing, contain challenging vocabulary or are examples of literary elements. **Consider plot development, shifts in tone or point of view, character development, theme, sentence structure, diction, imagery, figurative language, etc...** The examples below are taken from *The Chosen and Night*. The first two are examples of entries that focus on literary elements, and the last two are student reactions to events in the novels.

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<td>This gives us the point of view for the novel, first person, through the eyes of Reuven Malter.</td>
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<td>&quot;We had arrived at Buchenwald.&quot; (p.98).</td>
<td>A simple sentence that can encourage hope, bring happiness, and bring sadness. It can make someone happy knowing they will have food and shelter. It can make someone sad to know that they will again become slaves, and bring the thought that maybe it would have been better to die in the train.</td>
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<td>The violin was what was giving Juliek hope to survive, and he played his soul on it, so it must have been deeply moving music. When the violin broke, he must have died.</td>
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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!
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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!
SUMMER READING LIST

Advancing to 8th Grade  2015    Theme: Motivation

ENGLISH CLASS BOOK CHOICES

Fiction:

The Watkins Go to Birmingham by Christopher Curtis

A Scary Scene in a Scary Story by Matt Blackstone

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

www.Brainhive.com (Use your student ID to log on)

Suzanne Collins: Words on Fire; USA TODAY Lifeline Biographies Series By: Marcia Lusted

Goal! The Fire and Fury of Soccer's Greatest Moment (audio book) By Mark Stewart

American Pop: Hit Makers, Superstars, and Dance Revolutionaries (audio book) By Arie Kaplan

SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS BOOK CHOICES

The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had By Kristen Levine

The Dragon’s Child: A Story of Angel Island By Laurence Yep

Crow By Barbara Wright

www.Brainhive.com (Use your student ID to log on)

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire By: Rachel Bailey

Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices (audio book) By: Walter Myers
Reader’s Journal – Directions & Examples of 4 entries

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