Welcome to 7th grade GATE! We have an exciting and challenging year planned for you, and it all starts with summer reading. For your summer reading assignment, you must complete the following assignments:

1. Read and annotate the *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and write 9 dialectical journals from five different parts of the book. Bring your journals AND your annotated copy of the text with you on the first day of school.

2. Complete one of the reading projects for *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.

3. Read and annotate *Schooled* and write six dialectical journals.

**What are the procedures to creating a dialectical journal?**

1. As you read, look for quotations that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:
   o Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
   o Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before
   o Structural shifts or turns in the plot
   o A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
   o Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
   o Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
   o Events you find surprising or confusing
   o Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

   **Annotate** as you read - on a sticky note mark the spot in the text where you have found a passage, and write a brief response/observation.

2. When you are FINISHED reading the ENTIRE TEXT, choose nine of your **annotations** to expand into dialectical journals:

**What are some guidelines for the commentary section of the dialectical journal?**

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your commentary should be specific and detailed. You should write at least two full paragraphs of commentary for each entry. However, it is most important that your entry demonstrates close reading in which you show your thinking about the text, not that it is long.

Basic Responses
o Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text.
o Give your personal reactions to the passage.
o Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the character(s).
o Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences.
o Write about what it makes you think or feel.
o Agree or disagree with a character.

Higher Level Responses
o Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery).
o Make connections between different characters or events in the text.
o Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc...).
o Discuss the impact of words, ideas, or actions of character(s).
o Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character. o Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole.

Sample Dialectical Journal:

Student Name

7th Grade Summer Reading

September 5, 2013

Dialectical Journal – Schooled Chapter 1

Topic (Coming of Age)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I was thirteen the first time I saw a police officer up close. He was arresting me for driving without a license. At the time, I didn’t even know what a license was. I wasn’t too clear on what being arrested meant either” (Gantos, 1).</td>
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Context: This is the opening paragraph to the story of Capricorn, the 13 year old main character of Schooled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme Topic/Diction</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Coming of Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diction( important words/phrases that the author uses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first, too clear</td>
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</tbody>
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Commentary

Coming of age themes deal with growing up and the changes that kids go through as they grow and learn about what it means to be a grown up. Cap seems pretty innocent and protected because he hadn’t ever seen a police officer “up close”. He states that it was the “first time” and the word “first” is an important one when anyone talks about a kid’s life. It’s a big deal when a baby gets their first tooth or takes their first steps. As a child grows, those “firsts” change to the first bike ride without training wheels and the first day of school. Coming of age “firsts” mark the time between being a teenager and taking the first steps to being an adult. I think that this first for Cap will lead to some changes in the way that he sees
the world. The fact that Cap wasn’t “too clear on what being arrested meant” tells me that he has definitely been sheltered. I don’t know of any 13 year old kid that hasn’t seen what being arrested looks like on TV. I wonder if this means that he has lived on a deserted island or maybe he doesn’t have a TV or a computer.

Book Projects: Complete one for Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

- Write 5 diary entries in which you are a character from Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry and Stuff. Each entry must be one page long.
- Video-taped trailer that describes the plot, characters, setting, conflicts, and themes. (2 minutes to 5 minutes long)
- Write a graphic novel 5 pages
- Write a one page well developed essay on one of the following themes:
  - Friendship
  - Making the right decision
  - The importance of staying in school
- Poster that must include:
  - Illustration of the setting
  - 1 quote that demonstrates the importance of education (include page number)
  - 1 quote that deals with a conflict in the story (include page number)
  - 1 quote that deals with a right or wrong decision (include page number)

All activities must be based on evidence from the memoir Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. You must include page numbers when citing text.