

Ms. Stevens Summer Reading Incoming Juniors

Crackback by John Coy

Miles is a likable and talented player who tries to please everyone: coaches, his father, his teachers, and the girl he is interested in. Regardless of his efforts or his talents, he can't seem to satisfy his coach and winds up on the bench where he meets, and likes, the second-string players who have lives outside of football—something that has never occurred to Miles or his father. In addition, he refuses to take steroids, even though his teammates do. Through his struggles with his coach and his dad, he begins to learn that life is complicated and that answers don't always come in the form of X's and O's. The family secret that drives his father, the interesting girl who shows him that the world is a big place, and the intense, sometimes unbelievable coach who teaches him that you can't please some people, no matter what, give Miles a new, perhaps healthier, perspective.

Assignment:

Characters often face difficulties, hardships, and misfortune. Choose three characters from this book. Write one paragraph per character. In each paragraph:

- Describe the obstacle the character faced.
- Describe how the character reacted to the difficulty he/she faced.
- Describe how the character did or did not overcome their problem.

Every paragraph must answer EACH of the above. Each paragraph should contain:

- A topic sentence
- A MINIMUM of 6 detailed sentences
- A concluding sentence

Therefore each of the three paragraphs should be a minimum of 8 sentences long.

Therefore you are writing three paragraphs of at least 8 sentences apiece, which totals at least 24 sentences.

You can email them to me over the summer at kstevens@ssvotech.org. You should email me one by the end of July and two by the end of August. I will email you back and provide feedback. Therefore be prepared to edit your work if it is not acceptable.

DON'T BE A SLACKER!!! DO YOUR SUMMER READING!!!!

Ms. Stevens Summer Reading Incoming Seniors

The Orange Houses by Paul Griffin

Consumed with fitting in, 15-year-old Tamika tries to cover her hearing aids with her hair. She wants to be pretty and secretly dreams of being liked by her friend Jimmi, an 18-year-old war veteran who's been severely damaged by his experiences, turned to drugs, and cast out by society. But things don't seem to be going her way and Tamika copes by turning off her aids and shutting out the world. This angers her mother who is working two jobs to earn enough to pay for her daughter's auditory surgery. Tamika isn't sure she wants to hear again, until she meets and befriends Fatima, a vibrant illegal immigrant from Africa who comes to her Bronx neighborhood. Filled with uncertainty, identity confusion, and fear, the three teens form a friendship. Still, they are continually socially and physically abused by gangs and one day the threats go too far.

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