

Period 1: Independent Reading Questions

A., Amber: *Firestorm, New Moon, Twilight*

You've read 3 books this semester that all deal with action or adventures that could not happen in the real world. What makes books about unreal subjects appealing? Write to explain why books with elements of fantasy or science fiction are appealing to teens. Use examples from all 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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B., Tabitha : *Romiette & Julie, Monster, Christopher Killer, Forged by Fire, Copper Sun, Boot Camp, Shattered, BFF, Stargirl, Darkness Before Dawn, Darnell Rock Reporting, Goys, Girls and Other Hazardous Materiels, Around the Way Girls, Secret Life of Prince Charming*

You have read many books by Sharon Draper (Romiette & Julio, Forged by Fire, Darkness Before Dawn and Copper Sun). In her books the main characters must overcome hard times and often face danger, but there is always a happy ending. What does it take to overcome hard times according to Sharon Draper? Write to explain personality traits or other factors that Sharon Draper’s characters have that enable them to overcome hard times. Use examples from all 4 of the Draper books you have read to support your interpretation. In your conclusion, address what today’s teens can learn about overcoming their own hard times by reading this book.

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E., Melanie: *Shattered, Lost & Found, Secrets in the Shadows, Firestorm, A Matter of Trust*

You have read books from the Bluford series this semester. Characters in these books must overcome obstacles such as crime or violence in order to succeed. How do they manage? How do they overcome the obstacles they face. Write to explain what teens can learn about overcoming obstacle from the characters in the Bluford series. Use specific examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

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F., Luis : *Malcolm X, Slam, Imitate the Tiger, Shark Life, The Face on the Milk Carton*

Many of the main characters about whom you've read need courage to face a problem. **Write to compare the ways at least two of the main characters from at least two of the books you have read use courage to overcome the problems that confront them.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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F., Elijah James: *Firestorm, Double Dutch, The Gadget, Tears of a Tiger, Tupac, Homeboyz*

Two of the books you have read are about characters that have done something wrong. What should we do when we do something wrong? What lessons can be learned from our mistakes? Write to explain the lessons we can learn from our own mistakes. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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G., Aaron: *Firestorm, Tupack, City of the Beasts, Cryptid Hunters, Scott Pendleton*

Several of the books you have read have elements of fantasy or science fiction (Firestorm, City of the Beasts, Cryptid Hunters). If you could redesign our world to include any of the un-real elements from the books, which things would you include and why? Write to explain how our world could be improved if we could indeed have things from science fiction or fantasy novels. Use examples from at least 3 of the books that you have read in your response.

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G., Kimberly: *Worst Case Scenario Handbook, Firestorm, Breaking Dawn, Eclipse, New Moon, Ghost Medicine*

You have read much of the Twilight series this semester. Think about Bella. Is it wrong of Edward to turn her into a vampire? Why or why not. Take a position on Bella being turned into a vampire. Use examples from at least 3 of the Twilight books you have read in order to support your opinion—be sure to acknowledge Edward’s opinion in your essay.

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G., Alexis Laura: *Blood is Thicker, The Dare, Monster, Shattered, Lost & Found, A Matter of Trust, Secrets in the Shadows, Someone to Love Me*

Several of the books you read deal with teens facing violence or abuse. What types of violence and abuse do teens face? Write to explain violence/abuse and how teens can live through them or overcome them. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you've read in your response.

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G., Vanessa Michelle: *Monster, Firestorm, Lost & Found, A Matter of Trust, Blood is Thicker, The Dare, Shattered, Secrets in the Shadows*

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G., Kevin Javier: *Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, Breaking Dawn, Firestorm, Dragon and Thief*

You have read the entire Twilight series this semester. What makes it a great series? Think about the characteristics of the Twilight books that teens find appealing. Is it the writing? The romance? The action? The Vampires? Write to persuade a teen to read the Twilight series. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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H., Marimar: *Freedom Writer's Diary, What My Mother Doesn't Know, Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging*

What do teens care about? Write to explain the issues that are most important to teens. Be sure to use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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I., Latranee: *Firestorm, Wicked Lovely, Story Time, Vampire Dream, Wabi, Deadline, Ink Exchange*

Each of the characters in the books you have read either deal with loss or are facing the possibility of a loss (loss of life, loss of a loved one, loss of a friendship, etc.) How can teens positively deal with loss? Write to explain how teens can positively deal with loss they might face in their own lives. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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K., Mandy Kristi: *The Memory Keepers Daughter, Head Games, Esperanza Rising, Fever 1793, The Hanged Man, Wasteland*

You have read a few books with interesting girl characters. What makes a female character interesting to read? How do authors create a character that we like? Is it their physical description? Their personalities? The adventures or obstacles they face? Write to explain how authors create interesting girl characters. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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L., Perry : *Travelers I & 2, Boot Camp, In the Name of God, Raving the World, Portrait of Sepia, Whirlwind, The Ear, the Eye and the Arm, True Talents*

What does it take to be a great adventurer? You've read several books this semester that feature young adventurers/explorers. **Write to explain the traits successful adventurers have in common.** Be sure to use specific examples from at least 3 of the novels you have read in your response.

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L., Nathalia Lucia: *Whitestar, Firestorm, Cindy Ella, Before I Die, Fame, Chicken Soup for the Girl Soul, Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul, M or F*

You have read many teen story types of books this semester (Chicken Soup series). These books have true-life accounts of people coping with a variety of problems. Have you used any of the wisdom found in these novels in your own life? Have you acted kinder toward others because of reading these stories? Write to explain how could these types of books (or reading at all) help young people with their problems or help young people to live better lives? Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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L., Nicole : *Firestorm, Innocent Traitor, House of Night (Marked, Betrayed, Chosen, Untamed, Haunted, Tempted) Vampire Diaries 1, 2, 3, & 4 (vampire genre)*

A reader after my own heart, you've read nearly 2 vampire series this semester. So you are an expert of vampire books! What makes up a great vampire series? Romance? Action? Violence? How do the series you've read compare to Twilight? Write to explain the characteristics of a great vampire series. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

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O., Stefanie : *Imitate the Tiger, Breaking Dawn, Dear John, Firestorm, The 5 People You Meet in Heaven (relationships)*

How can teens overcome hard times? The characters in several books you've read must figure out why their friends have changed and deal with it. Write to explain what you learned about dealing with change. Use examples from at least two of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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O., Paula : *Secrets in the Shadows, Someone to Love me, Eye Contact, Chemical Chaos*

In the *Bluford Series* and in *Eye Contact* the main characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain the different ways people can be courageous when facing a problem.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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P., Juan : *Forged by Fire, Firestorm*

In both of the books you have read this semester the main characters need to take responsibility. Some of the characters have had to take responsibility for their own actions; others have had to take responsibility for their own survival and still others have had to take responsibility for friends or family. Think about all of the ways the characters you read about are responsible. **Write to explain how teens can act responsibly.** In your conclusion you may want to comment on what you have learned about taking responsibility from your readings. Be sure to cite specific examples from your readings in your response.

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P., Jacquelyn: *Firestorm, Eragon, Dark Angel, Eldest, Whirlwind, Number the Stars, ASUFE: A Slippery Slope #10*

You've read several books this semester that involve heroic characters going on a quest to learn or save something. What does it take to be heroic? Write to explain the traits of hero. Use examples from all 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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P., Luana : *Hush, Firestorm, Running Out of Time, Send Me Down a Miracle*

You have read several books where a boy must stand up for what is right. What can books teach us about standing up for what is right? Write to explain how reading can teach us about standing up for what is right. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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Q., Vanessa: *Romiette & Julio, Darkness Before Dawn, The Christopher Killer, Imitate the Tiger, Monster*

What real life situations do teens have to face? Write to explain the “real deal” that kids face and how they meet the challenges in order to survive. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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R., Rafael : *Imitate the Tiger, Tears of a Tiger, Firestorm*

Based on the books you read this semester you have seemed most interested in books about football or athletes. What have you learned about being a successful athlete? Write to explain what you have learned about being a successful athlete. Using specific examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to describe what an athlete needs to do to become successful in high school and beyond.

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R., Leo: *The Bully, Firestorm, Whirlwind, The Outsiders, Timelock*

You have read several books where a boy must stand up for what is right. What can books teach us about standing up for what is right? Write to explain how reading can teach us about standing up for what is right. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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S., Malik : *Hero, Stoner & Spaz, Agent Get 'Em, Charlies' Raven, Homeboyz, Tears of a Tiger*

Two of the books you have read are about characters that have done something wrong. What should we do when we do something wrong? What lessons can be learned from our mistakes? Write to explain the lessons we can learn from our own mistakes. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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S., Stefon : *Firestorm, Schooled, Blood is Thicker, Secrets in the Shadows, Search for Safety, Tears of a Tiger, Whirlwind, Until We Meet Again, Bootcamp, Timelock, Last Book in the Universe, Forged by Fire, Diary of a Wimpy Kid #4, Gangsta Rap, If I Grow Up*

I've noticed that you've read several books in a series. What makes a good series for teens? Are reading books in a series better than just reading books that stand alone? Write to explain the characteristics of good series of books for teens. Include examples from at least 3 of the series (Bluford, Firestorm, Hazlewood High or Diary of a Wimpy Kid) you have read this summer in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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V., Luis : *Kingdom Keepers, Life as We Knew It, Elsewhere, Firestorm, The Witching Hour, Hatchet, Brian’s Winter, Eclipse, No Fear Shakespeare, H. P. ½ Blood Prince, Interview with a Vampire, Wereling, Macbeth*

You have read several books this semester where the main character must survive. Consider what each of the main characters in the novels you have read must survive. How do they survive? Do they use beauty, brains or magic? How is their journey and their survival different in each case? **Write to explain teens can survive the problems that face.** Use specific examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don’t really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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Z., Bruna : *Firestorm, Love Walked in, The Wedding, Fame, Glory and Everthing Else on My to do List*

All of the books you have read feature characters in relationships (romantic or friendly) with others. Think about types of relationships teens have and what it takes to have a successful relationships with another person. Write to explain the types and characteristics of good relationships. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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A., Mardi *Firestorm, Tupac, Cryptids*

You've read several books about adventures or adventurers this semester. What are the characteristics of a great adventure? Write to explain the characteristics of a great adventure. Use examples from at least 2 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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A., Nicholas : *Tangerine, The Lightning Thief*

In the *books you read* characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain the ways teens can use courage to overcome the problems that confront them.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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B., Damaris : *What Happened to Cass McBride, Anthem, The Fountainhead, Blood is Thicker, Breaking Though, Fact of Life #31*

Several of the books you have read this semester have a survival theme. What does it take to survive? What types of things do we have to survive in order to live or be successful? Write to explain qualities that help a person survive. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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C., Andres F: *Firestorm, The Outsiders, Whirlwind, Enemies & Allies, The Report Card, Shattered, Timelock*

You have really enjoyed the Caretaker trilogy this semester. The trilogy is full of action and adventure. What makes a great action/adventure book? What should books in the genre include? Write to explain the characteristics of a great action/adventure book. Be sure to use examples from at least 3 of the books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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C., Javier : *Firestorm, Whirlwind, I Love Halloween, Marvel Encyclopedia*

Several of the books you read this semester have characters that act in heroic ways. What does it mean to be heroic? Write to explain the characteristics of a hero. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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C., Robert A: *Lion Boy, Thief Lord, Firestorm, Whirlwind, Timelock, The House of the Scorpion, Pinocchio, Noche De Pass*

You have really enjoyed the Caretaker trilogy this semester as well as other action/adventure titles. The trilogy is full of action and adventure. What makes a great action/adventure book? What should books in the genre include? Write to explain the characteristics of a great action/adventure book. Be sure to use examples from at least 3 of the books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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C., Kyle : *Hatchet, Brian's Winter*

You have read several books this semester where the main character must survive. Consider what each of the main characters in the novels you have read must survive (tools, brains, etc.) How does he survive? Do they use beauty, brains or magic? How is his journey and his survival the same or different in each case? **Write to explain what it takes to survive in harsh conditions.** Use specific examples from at least 3 books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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C., Sabrina: *Firestorm, Keeping You a Secret, Something Maybe, Wake, Fade, Demonate, The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Several of the characters about which you read this semester are outsiders or characters on the fringe of the mainstream. How do outsiders cope with being on the outside? How do they fit in or make a place for themselves? Write to explain how teens who feel they are “outsiders” can fit in or feel good about their place in the world. Be sure to include examples from at least 3 of the books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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D., Elizabeth: *Street Love, Firestorm, Stuck in Neutral, Party Girl*

Several of the books you read deal with life or death situations. How can teenagers protect themselves, even just mentally, from life-threatening situations. Write to explain how teens can protect themselves from danger. Be sure to include examples from at least 3 of the books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
Organization	<p>Writing is so easy to follow it's like there's a road map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I invite readers to read my paper with a strong lead? * Are readers compelled to keep reading because of how I arranged my ideas? * Do I use strong but natural transitions between and within paragraphs? 	<p>Readers can follow the writing pretty well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Is my lead/introduction interesting? * Are my ideas in "good enough" order? * Are my transitions predictable, weak, or boring? 	<p>Writing is not easy to follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have a lead/introduction that sets up the flow of the writing? * Are my ideas in random or any kind of order? * Did I use transitions consistently? 	<p>Writing is just a bunch of ideas thrown together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have a lead/introduction? * Are my ideas in random order? * Will my readers get lost?

G., Brittany M: *Hatchet, Ironside, Firestorm, Boot Camp, Whatever Happened to Cass McBride, The Wereling*

Several of the books you read this semester are suspenseful. What do writers do to create suspense? Is it action? Imagery? Spooky situations? Write to explain how writers create stories of suspense. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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H., Neysa : *Hatchet, Ironside, Firestorm, Boot Camp, Whatever Happened to Cass McBride, The Wereling*

Several of the books you read this semester are suspenseful. What do writers do to create suspense? Is it action? Imagery? Spooky situations? Write to explain how writers create stories of suspense. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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J., Widleen : no books recorded; *Getting Away with Murder, Among the Hidden, Firestorm*

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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K., Alicia: *Schooled, A Matter of Trust, Lost and Found, Switched, Sweet Valley Jr. High, Walking on the Boundaries of Change, Tupac, Nothing's the End of the World*

Many of the main characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain how we can use courage to overcome the problems that confront us.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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L., Melissa: no books recorded; *Getting Away with Murder, Among the Hidden, Firestorm*

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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M., Geraldo : *Ripley's Believe It or Not, The Opposite of Invisible, Firestorm*

Can we travel through time and space? Breathe underwater? You've read several books this semester that deal with unbelievable subjects or themes. Unbelievable subjects from magic to oddities to time travel are fascinating! **Write to explain how books that deal like Ripley's and Firestorm make the "unbelievable" believable.** Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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M., Darrell Lee: *America's Wackest 911 Calls, Chinese Born American, Maus, Guinness Book of World Records, Crytids, Problems that Worked (graphic novels)*

Darrell, I have noticed that you enjoy graphic novels. What makes a great graphic novel? Is it the pictures? The story? Coloring? Action? Write to explain the elements of a great graphic novel. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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P., Samantha Michelle: *Twilight, Firestorm, Food, Girls and Other Things I Can't Have, Go Ask Alice, Kicked Out*

You have read books this semester, which involve characters who have to be strong in order to overcome hardship. What strengths do we have to have? How can we learn something and find some joy even in the darkest of times? Write to explain how teens can overcome hardships. Use specific examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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R, Carlos : *Firestorm, Elsewhere, Survivors, Godless, Crunch Time, The Christopher Killer, Whirlwind, Unwind, Blackwater, Life as We Knew It*

Several of the books you read this semester are suspenseful. What do writers do to create suspense? Is it action? Imagery? Spooky situations? Write to explain how writers create stories of suspense. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

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Ri, Natasha Lee: *Firestorm, Until We Meet Again, Shattered, Secrets in the Shadows, Search for Safety, Blood is Thicker, Send One Angel Down, Lost and Found*

Many of the main characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain how we can use courage to overcome the problems that confront us.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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S., Edwuije : no books recorded *Among the Hidden, Getting Away with Murder, Firestorm*

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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S., Tracey : *Forged by Fire, Outsiders, Firestorm, Tupac, Tears of a Tiger, New Moon, Twilight*

Friendship plays an important role in several of the books you have read. What does it take to be a true and good friend? How is a true friend different from a “fake friend”? Write to explain the qualities of a true friend. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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S., Conway E: *Firestorm, Brothers in Arms, No Way Out, Secrets in the Shadows*

Many of the main characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain how we can use courage to overcome the problems that confront us.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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S., Thomas John: no books recorded *Among the Hidden, Getting Away with Murder, Firestorm*

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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S., Taylor Marie: *Twilight, New Moon, Devil's Arithmetic, Living Dead Girl*

Several of the books you read involve girls in dangerous situations. How do these girls survive? What can they do to protect themselves from danger? Write to explain the physical or mental characteristics girls need to develop to survive dangers they may face in life. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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Period 3: Independent Reading

B., Belmin: *Werewolf at Fever Swamp; Tupac, Holes, The Shocker, Catcher in the Rye, Ripley’s Believe it or Not*

In a few of the books you have read this semester the main characters have needed take responsibility. Some of the characters have had to take responsibility for their own actions; others have had to take responsibility for their own survival and still others have had to take responsibility for friends or family. Think about all of the ways the characters you read about are responsible. **Write to explain how teens can act responsibly.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don’t really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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C., Christopher Lee: *Firestorm, Hunger Games, Life as We Knew It, Everlost, Catching Fire*

In several of the books you have read characters have had to survive life or death situations. How do they do that? What can we learn from them? Write to explain the mental characteristics it takes to survive life or death situations. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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C., Alexandra Maria: *If I Stay, the Clique, Call me Maria, Firestorm, Street Love, Best Friends 4 Ever, Replica, Pursing Amy, 13 Reasons Why*

Friendship plays an important role in several of the books you have read. What does it take to be a true and good friend? How is a true friend different from a “fake friend”? How do fake friends hurt us? Write to explain the harm that come from being a “fake” friend. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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D., Maria Camila: *Firestorm, Choices, Twisted, Head Games, 1st to Die, Wrecked, Can't get Their from Here*

Several of the books you have read deal with teens who are either popular or unknown (invisible). Is it better to be popular or better to be invisible? Take a position and write to persuade a teen audience which is better: popularity or anonymity. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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F., Jovel E: *Hunger Games, Firestorm, Elsewhere, The Christopher Killer, Street Love, What Happened to OMcBride, Looking for Alaska, Boot Camp, Cross My Heart Hope to Spy, City of Bones, The Disreputal History of Frankie Landau Banks, Don't Look Behind You, Twilight, Eclipse, Forged by Fire, A Walk to Remember, Jumping the nail, Wicked Lovely, Alias: Secret Life, New Moon, Catching Fire, Write Naked,*

Several of the books you read this semester are suspenseful. What do writers do to create suspense? Is it action? Imagery? Spooky situations? Write to explain how writers create stories of suspense. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

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G., Ricardo Andres: *The Last Olympian, Swallowing Stones, Stormbreaker, Point Blank, Token of Darkness*

Many of the characters in the books you have read embark on a quest of some kind. What does it take to succeed on a quest? Write to explain what it takes to have a successful quest. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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H., Jackeline Nicole: *Generation Dead, Christopher Killer, Firestorm, What My Mother Doesn't Know, Identical, Write Naked, Unwind, Armaggedon Summer, The Body of Christopher Creed, Jumping the Nail, The Sky is Everywhere*

Many of the books you have read feature characters struggling in relationships with others. Think about what it takes to have a successful relationship with another person. Write to explain the characteristics of good relationships. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

Scoring Rubric

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H., Sarah Nicole: *Out of Order, Firestorm, Thunderbowl, Shakespeare Bats Cleanup, TTFN, Sun-Kissed, Life As We Knew It*

In many of the books you have read, teenagers face difficult situations and have to learn to grow and overcome them. Based on your reading and your own life experiences, **write to explain how teens can overcome the most difficult problems they face.** Choose examples at least 3 books you've read and your own experience to support your response.

Scoring Rubric

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K., Nadia: *Firestorm, Twilight, New Moon, Whirlwind, Pirates of the Carribean, Raven & other Poems, The BFG, How to Save Money*

Many of the books you have read feature characters struggling in relationships with others. Think about what it takes to have a successful relationship with another person. Write to explain the characteristics of good relationships. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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K., Raven : *Firestorm, Boot Camp, The Secret School, Fighting Chance, Shattered, Last Chance, 13 Reasons Why*

What real life situations do teens have to face? How do teens overcome hard times? Write to explain how teens can overcome hard times order to survive. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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L., Edwin: *ShatteringGlass, Breaking Storms, Dinned, Truancy Origins, City of Bones, Her & I, The Beasties, Lightning Thief, Sea of Monsters, Whirlwind, Curse of the Titans*

You've read several books this semester that all deal with action or adventures that could not happen in the real world. What makes books about unreal subjects appealing? Write to explain why books with elements of fantasy or science fiction are appealing to teens. Use examples from all 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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L., Shelby Renee: *Please Stop Laughing at Me, The Freedom Writers, Teenagers Journey, The Gun, Story of a Girl, Paybay (Bluford), Family Reunion, Comfort, 7 Habits of a Teenager*

Several of the books you've read reveal issues that are on teen's minds. What do teens care about? Write to explain the issues that are most important to teens. Be sure to use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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L., Alexander: *Search for Safety, Firestorm, The Gun, Brothers in Arms, Lost and Found, Pinned, City of Fire*

Many of the main characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain how we can use courage to overcome the problems that confront us.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you read in your response.

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L., Eduardo : *Firestorm, Breaking Dawn, Storm: Infinity Code, Hunger Games, Catching Fire, Blackwater, Unwind, Wish You Were Dead*

You've read several books about adventures or adventurers this semester. What are the characteristics of a great adventure? Write to explain the characteristics of a great adventure. Use examples from at least 2 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

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N., Courtnee M: *Lock & Key, The Unwanted, Fame, No Easy Answers, Looking for Alaska, Stiff, Boot Camp, Homeboyz*

Several of the books you have read are about characters that have done something wrong. What should we do when we do something wrong? What lessons can be learned from our mistakes? Write to explain the lessons we can learn from our own mistakes. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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N., Truc Thy Phan: *Speak, 13 Reasons Why, the Unwanted, Firestorm, What Happened to CasssMcBride, Heaven Looks like the Mall, Hunger Games, Little Secret, Among the Hidden, Unwind, Wish You Were Here, Living Dead Girl, Food, Girls and Other Things I Can't Have*

Several of the books you read this semester are suspenseful. What do writers do to create suspense? Is it action? Imagery? Spooky situations? Write to explain how writers create stories of suspense. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

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N., Varnard Ghalil: *Forged by Fire, Secrets in the Shadows, Lost and Found, Unlil We Meet Again, Shattered*

Several of the books you have read are about characters that have done something wrong. What should we do when we do something wrong? What lessons can be learned from our mistakes? Write to explain the lessons we can learn from our own mistakes. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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P., Brianna : *Killer’s Kiss, What Happened to Cass McBride, Little Secret, Playing with Fire, 13 Reasons Why*

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R., Gabriela Alexandra: *Firestorm, Planet Janet, Brothers in Arms. The Body of Christopher Creed, Write Naked, The Beast, The Bully, Street Love, Midnight Sun, Fame, Glory & Other Things on My to Do List, Shadow Bones, Spellfall, Who Owns Kelly Paddick, The Sky is Everywhere, Fallen*

You've read all kinds of books this semester...from suspense and murder to love and friendship. What makes characters memorable to you? Do they have to have a sense of humor? Be popular? Be quirky? Write to explain what makes a memorable character in teen fiction. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

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S., Jonathan: *Firestorm, The Freedom Writers, Last Book in the Universe, Stormbreaker, Hunger Games*

You've read several books this semester that involve heroic characters going on a quest to learn or save something. What does it take to be heroic? Write to explain the traits of hero. Use examples from all 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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S., Amanda Nicole: *Firestorm, Suck it Up, The Outsiders, Boot Camp, Ted's Stories, Homeboyz*, *Blood is Thicker, Hunger Games, Wisher You Were Dead, Breathe, Unwind, The Last Exit to Normal*

Two of the books you have read are about characters that have done something wrong. What should we do when we do something wrong? What lessons can be learned from our mistakes? Write to explain the lessons we can learn from our own mistakes. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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Y., Tiffany K: *Firestorm, Twilight, Flight #116 is Down, So You're About to be a Teen Champ, Pick of the Litter, New Prophecy Warriors, Bridge to Teribithia, Sideways Stories, Never Hit a Ghost with a Baseball Bat, Night of the Howling Dogs, Freddy in Peril*

Several of the books you read this semester are suspenseful. What do writers do to create suspense? Is it action? Imagery? Spooky situations? Write to explain how writers create stories of suspense. Use examples from at least 4 of the books you have read in your response.

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Organization	<p>Writing is so easy to follow it's like there's a road map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I invite readers to read my paper with a strong lead? * Are readers compelled to keep reading because of how I arranged my ideas? * Do I use strong but natural transitions between and within paragraphs? 	<p>Readers can follow the writing pretty well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Is my lead/introduction interesting? * Are my ideas in "good enough" order? * Are my transitions predictable, weak, or boring? 	<p>Writing is not easy to follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have a lead/introduction that sets up the flow of the writing? * Are my ideas in random or any kind of order? * Did I use transitions consistently? 	<p>Writing is just a bunch of ideas thrown together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have a lead/introduction? * Are my ideas in random order? * Will my readers get lost?

Period 5

A., Rija : *Firestorm, New Moon, Twilight, Dead is the New Black, Dead is so Last Year, Mixed Bags, Top 8, Along the Ride* (Sarah D.)

You've read from 2 series this semester which feature the dead or vampires. Which types of vampires make the best characters? The good vampires? Or the villainous vampires? Write to explain different types of vampires represented in teen fiction. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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A., Maria De Los Angeles: *Firestorm, Twilight, 13 Reasons Why, Anthem, New Moon, the Clearing, Eclipse*

Ayn Rand, the author of *Anthem* once said, “I swear, by my life and my love of it, that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine.” Do you think Bella lives only for Edward’s sake or is she her own person? Would Ayn Rand see Bella as a strong individual? Take a stand on the issue of Bella as a strong, independent individual. Use examples from the *Twilight* books to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don’t really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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B., Stephanie : *Firestorm, City of Bones, Street Love, Twilight*

All of the books you have read feature characters in relationships (romantic or friendly) with others. Think about types of relationships teens have and what it takes to have a successful relationships with another person. Write to explain the types and characteristics of good relationships. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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C., Angelica: *Firestorm, Getting Away with Murder*

All of the books you have read feature characters in relationships (romantic or friendly) with others. Think about types of relationships teens have and what it takes to have a successful relationships with another person. Write to explain the types and characteristics of good relationships. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinions.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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C., Christopher Alexander: *Maximum Ride #6, Hatchet, Hunger Games, Firestorm, Whirlwind, Lightning Thief, Caching Fire, Surf Mules, Whereling*

What makes a good adventure book? You've read several books this semester that feature young men on some type of adventure. **Write to explain the traits a great adventure book.** Be sure to use specific examples from at least 3 of the novels you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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D., Allyssa: *Teen Ink, Street Love, Firestorm, Homecoming, The Light in the Attic, For My Daughter* (pull at heartstrings)

You've read several books that include teen issues (love, heart ache, friendship, family) What do teens care about? Write to explain the issues that are most important to teens. Be sure to use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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D., Phillip : *Catching Fire, Firestorm, Whirlwind, Twilight, Eclipse, New Moon, Breaking Dawn, Schooled, H.P. #7, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Remnants, Timelock*

You have read the entire Twilight series this semester. What makes it a great series? Think about the characteristics of the Twilight books that teens find appealing. Is it the writing? The romance? The action? The Vampires? Write to persuade a teen to read the Twilight series. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

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E., Gabriela Tatiana: *Twilight, Firestorm, The Greek Girl's Guide to Cheerleading, The Rock*

Friendship plays an important role in several of the books you have read. What does it take to be a true and good friend? How is a true friend different from a “fake friend”? Write to explain the qualities of a true friend. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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E., Amber : *Firestorm, Twilight, New Moon*

You have read 2 books in the Twilight series this semester. I would imagine you have even seen the movies. You may either write to explain what makes these books so appealing to teens OR you may write to take a position on the following the statement: “the book is always better than the movie.” If you choose to take a position on the statement prove your case with examples from both of the books and both of the movies.

Scoring Rubric

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F., Cassandra : *New Moon, Breaking Dawn, Eclipse, Shattered, Lost & Found, Firestorm, Schooled, No Way Out, Forged by Fire, Tears of a Tiger, Battle of Jericho, 13 Reasons Why, It Could Happen to Me, Monster, Brothers in Arms*

Several of the characters about whom you've read face life or death situations. How do they survive? Or do they? Write to explain what traits—physical and or emotional—must a teen have to survive hard times. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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G., Alejandra : *Firestorm, Perfect You, Thunderbowl, Peeled, Along for the Ride*

In several of the books you've read writers create strong and memorable female characters. What are the qualities of a strong female character from current young adult fiction? Write to explain the traits of strong female characters that appeal to teens. Use examples from 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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G., Cesar Orlando: *Firestorm, Forged by Fire, Twilight, City of Bones, Tears of a Tiger, Lost & Found, The Bully, New Moon*

At least one character in each of the books you have read does something wrong. How do they make up for their wrongs (some of which are actual crimes)? What can you learn about making up for wrong doings from reading? **Explain how we can right the wrongs we commit as teens.** Choose examples from at least 3 of the books you've read and your own experience to support your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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G., Naoki : *Firestorm, Guinea Pig Scientists, 2008 World Records, Football Genius, Truancy Origins*

You've read a variety of books this semester that seem specifically written to appeal to boys. What types of books appeal to boy readers? Write to explain the characteristics of books that appeal especially to teenage boys. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D
Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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G., Ileyna : *Firestorm, Party Games, Specials, Extras, Something, Maybe; Along for the Ride; Crunch Time; Island Girls, The Boyfriend Trick; Love on Cue; That Summer; What’s Hot; The 12 Dates of Christmas; Love on the Lifts; Spells & Sleeping Bags; Guitar Girl; Your So Undead to Me; French Kiss; Pretties; Fate* (read 48 titles so far..what does an avid reader like you look for in a book...)

You’ve read more books than anyone in any of my classes! Wow! I noticed that you seem to read books that either have a strong girl action hero (Tally Youngblood), or stereotypical types of girls who like relationships and social things. What makes Tally Youngblood so different from the girl main characters of most young adult novels? Write to contrast Tally Youngblood with at least 3 other types of girl characters you have seen in the novels you have read. Think in terms of “types” of girls: girlfriends or girls looking for love, girl next doors types, good girls, Goth girls, etc. You decide on the “types.”

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L., Yasmeen: no books recorded

Friendship plays an important role in several of the books you have read. What does it take to be a true and good friend? How is a true friend different from a “fake friend”? Write to explain the qualities of a true friend. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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L., Valessi Loren: *New Moon, Summer of Secrets*

Friendship plays an important role in several of the books you have read. What does it take to be a true and good friend? How is a true friend different from a “fake friend”? Write to explain the qualities of a true friend. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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M., Joseph : *Firestorm, A Light in the Attic, The Maze, Ripley's Believe it or Not*

You've read 2 books this semester in which boys have to overcome physical challenges in order to survive. What does that take? How can you survive dangerous circumstances. Write to explain how boys can use their brains and their brawn to survive danger. Use examples from *Firestorm*, *The Maze* and *Among the Hidden* in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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M., Omar Ahmed: *Tupac*

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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M., Ismael : *Rock Solid, Tupac*

You have read about 2 famous people this semester. What does it take to be or survive fame? Write to explain what it takes to be famous or survive fame. Use examples from both of the books you have read in your response.

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P., Alexander : *We Beat the Street, Goal 1, Firestorm*

In two of the books you read this semester boys must “beat the street” or overcome difficult challenges. How can we overcome physical or mental challenges ahead of us? Write to explain how teens can overcome physical and mental challenges. Use examples from at least 3 of the books that you read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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P., Leidy: *Firestorm, Twilight, Desperoux, New Moon, The Notebook, Nothing's the End of the World, Ripley's Believe It or Not, Best Love Poems Ever, The Dog Ate My Homework, Random Acts of Kindness; Summer Reading is Killing Me*

You have read several poetry collections and several novels this semester. Think about the characters and situations from the books you read. Think about Sara Holbrook's poetry. Which of Sara Holbrook's poems represent any two characters from the books you read. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you read and write an essay explaining how Holbrook's poems help you understand at least 2 characters from the books you read. Please include copies of the poems you choose to write about with your essay.

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R., Carla N: *Firestorm, Boot Camp, The Diamonds, Gentlehands, Among the Betrayed, Among the Barons, Just Listen*

In several of the books you have read, characters stand up for what their beliefs. When should we stand up for we believe in? Explain the pros (benefits) and cons (negative consequences) of standing up for what you believe in. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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R., Denys: *Firestorm, Kicked Out, Lost and Found, Overdrive, Summer Reading is Killing Me, Thunderbowl*

Many of the main characters have needed courage to face a problem. **Write to explain how we can use courage to overcome the problems that confront us.** Be sure to cite specific examples from at least 3 books you read in your response.

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R., Daniel Orlando: *Firestorm, Narnia #1, Refresh, The Outsiders*

In several of the books you have read the characters have to trust each other. Why is trust so important? Write to explain the importance of trust. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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R., Adriana: *Firestorm, Twilight*

Friendship between boys and girls plays an important role in both of the books you have read. Can boys and girls be true friends and not boyfriends and girlfriends? Take a stand on the issue of boy-girl friendships. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

Scoring Rubric

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R., Chloe Marie: *Firestorm, Anything But Typical, Best Friend, Loc, & Key, Thinking Positive*

Friendship plays an important role in several of the books you have read. What does it take to be a true and good friend? How is a true friend different from a “fake friend”? Write to explain the qualities of a true friend. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your response.

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S., Kiara Maylee: *no books recorded Firestorm, Getting Away with Murder, Among the Hidden*

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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Ideas	<p>Writing is clear and full of important, interesting detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does my paper stick to the main point? * Did I choose interesting and specific details from at least 3 books I read? * Does my knowledge about the topic and my books show? 	<p>Writer is off to a good start. You can see where he/she is headed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I have good but general information? * Are details that summarize the plot mixed in with interesting ideas I have from the books? * Did I include some information that I don't really need? 	<p>Writer needs more information and a clearer focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do I wander from the topic of my question? * Do I summarize the books MORE than answer the essay question? 	<p>Writing is confusing and does not have a clear point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Did I focus on the topic of my question? * Am I just writing to fill space or do I have real ideas about the question? * What am I trying to say?
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S., Harrison Davis: *Holes, Jaws, Jurassic Park, Whitestar, Warcraft, Wraith of Lichking, Bioshock*

In the books you've read, characters must battle evil monsters, animals or forces. What does it take to defeat the bad guys? Use examples from at least 3 of the books you read to support your opinions.

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T., Luis Felipe: Narnia #1

Three of the books we have read as a class involve righting wrongs. How can we right wrongs we see in society? Explain how teens can right wrongs they see around them. Use examples from at least 3 books you have read in order to support your opinion.

Scoring Rubric

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W., Jeffrey David: *Tupac, Firestorm, Nothing's the End of the World, Brad Johnson, Arctic Patrol Mystery, Ripley's Believe It or Not*

What makes books appealing to boys? Adventure? The odd or strange? You've read a variety of books this semester—what do they have in common? Explain the characteristics of books that hold the attention of teenage boys. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read to support your opinion.

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W., Esther: *The Raven Master's Secret, Homeboyz, Someone to Love Me, The Soul of South Africa, Firestorm*

Several of the books you have read are about characters that have done something wrong. What should we do when we do something wrong? What lessons can be learned from our mistakes? Write to explain the lessons we can learn from our own mistakes. Use examples from at least 3 of the books you have read in your essay.

Scoring Rubric

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