

CBNA 9th Grade Summer Reading Note Taking Guide

As you read your summer reading novels, it is important to take effective notes, as you will be permitted and encouraged to use these notes during the written test given during the first weeks of school.

The following are suggestions for taking notes as you read:

During Reading

- Record major **plot** events or **storyline** in chronological order as you read. What happens in the story? What important things happen to the main characters? What are the key events? How does the problem or conflict develop? What might the climax, or point of highest excitement be? How is the problem or conflict resolved?
- Record and define any unfamiliar **vocabulary** as you read. As you encounter a new word, jot it down, then go back and look it up in a dictionary if you can't figure out the word's meaning from the context.

During and After Reading

- Describe the **setting**, the time and place in which the story occurs. Think about how it is important to understanding the plot.
- Record a list of important **characters**. Include short descriptions of the characters, and write down some of the important ways in which they influence the story and other characters. You may want to select one or two memorable quotes that the characters would be well known for.
- During and after your reading, it's a great idea to list several **themes** that you observe in the reading. Themes are messages about life or ideas that the author is trying to communicate through the novel. Usually there are several themes that could be discovered in a literary work. For example, you might describe what the author seems to be saying about family, friendship, love, dealing with tough situations, etc.