

Ho-Ho-Kus

5th Grade

Summer Reading

“Reading is a window to the world.” - Lynn Butler

Blended

By Sharon M. Draper

She's Isabella to her dad and Izzy to her mom. She plays a fancy piano at her dad's large house, and a portable keyboard at her mom's small one. Spending every other week with each parent and their significant other, she's a "kid sliced in half." And since her dad's black and her mom's white, her identity and her relationships seem even more complicated. Isabella knows she's loved, but the hostility between her parents and the complexities of juggling two lives make things challenging. Luckily, when things get hard, she has her deep love for the piano, two great friends, and a soon-to-be step brother who has her back.

Summer reading is crucial. It helps you grow in your reading, and helps sustain the reading progress that you made throughout 4th grade. Reading *Blended* is the perfect way to kick off your summer reading and build on the comprehension skills you gained during your 4th grade Social Issues Unit!

Blended is a book with many complex social issues, centered on divorce, race and violence. We will be discussing *Blended* in class in September, but we strongly suggest reading this book with your families. There is much to discuss and learn from Isabella's story. You may also listen to the audio of each chapter. HHK teachers have recorded each chapter for you and this is found on hohokus.org.

In addition to reading the book, we ask that you choose one of the 3 project ideas. Also, please fill out this summer reading log. This log will help track how many books you read over the summer and help us get to know you as a reader in September!

The bookstore, [The Curious Reader](#), in Glen Rock, is generously offering HHK students a 20% discount on *Blended*. Please mention that you are purchasing the book for HHK's summer reading and they will give you this discount!

Project Idea #1

Pretend that you are in Isabella's shoes. Write a journal entry to yourself. You may choose to write from Isabella's perspective from any point in the story (beginning, middle, or end). What issues are you grappling with? How are you feeling? What is helping you deal with these issues?

Project Idea #2

Create a piece of artwork that represents the book, *Blended*. It could be one scene in particular, or artwork that describes the story as a whole.

Project Idea #3

Create a comic of a powerful scene from *Blended*. You may draw your comic.

*The Summer Reading Assignment
will be due on Tuesday, September
15, and will count as a homework
grade.*

* If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me, Mrs. Burke, over the summer at vburke@hohokus.org.

