



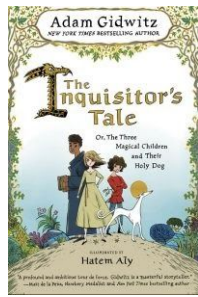
Ho-Ho-Kus Public School  
Required Summer Reading

for

Eighth Grade

2020

Dr. Quigley



“Be awesome! Be a book nut!”---Dr. Seuss

Summer offers a perfect opportunity for you to rediscover the pleasure of reading at your own pace. Connecting to stories that are exciting and engaging is key to developing lifelong reading habits. Reading, writing, and success in school are closely interrelated. Even more importantly, reading engages your imagination like no other medium.

Instructions:

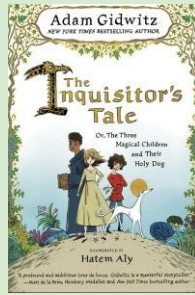
- **Required:** *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz. Complete one assignment.
- **Required:** Choose one of the following, as well as one activity.
  - *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper
  - *A Tale Dark and Grimm (A Tale Dark and Grimm Book 1)* by Adam Gidwitz.

**Work is due on Tuesday, September 15, and will count as a grade in the first trimester.** If you have questions during the summer, please e-mail Dr. Quigley at [wquigley@hohokus.org](mailto:wquigley@hohokus.org).

**If you prefer auditory assistance, highlight the text and click the purple Read/Write icon in the toolbar.**

**All of these books are also available on Learning Ally.**

## Required Reading:



### *The Inquisitor's Tale*

**1242. On a dark night**, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children: William, an oblate on a mission from his monastery; Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village; and Jeanne, a peasant girl who hides her prophetic visions. They are accompanied by Jeanne's loyal greyhound, Gwenforte . . . recently brought back from the dead. As the narrator collects their tales, the story of these three unlikely allies begins to come together. Their adventures take them on a chase through France to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious and holy texts from being burned. They're taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. And as their quest drives them forward to a final showdown at Mont Saint-Michel, all will come to question if these children can perform the miracles of saints.



1. [Click here to read to learn about Adam Gidwitz!](#)
2. [Click here to complete the activities](#)

## Choice #1:



### *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves.

Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels completely stuck in the middle, split and divided between them more than ever. And she is beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad involves more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting: "You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." "But what are you really?" She knows what they're really saying: "You don't look like your parents." "You're different." "What race are you really?" And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again—until the worst thing happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired.



[Click here to learn more about Sharon M. Draper!](#)

- [Activities:](#)  
(Please make your own copy)

## Choice #2:



### Required Reading Assignment

Adam Gidwitz's [A Tale Dark & Grimm](#)

In this mischievous and utterly original debut, Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. As readers follow the siblings through a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches.

Fairy tales have never been more irreverent or subversive as Hansel and Gretel learn to take charge of their destinies and become the clever architects of their own happily ever after.



1. [Click here to learn more about Adam Gidwitz!](#)
2. [Click here to complete the activities](#)