



# Westminster Christian Academy

## 9th Grade Summer Reading

### Expository Writing

Trouble by Gary D. Schmidt

#### Why are you reading this book?

- Gary D. Schmidt's book, Trouble, centers around eighth grader Henry, who grapples with his sense of self during a tragedy that upsets his normally idyllic family and town. This is a story of finding one's identity amidst the influence and pressures of society and family.
- Identity is a theme that students will explore throughout their year in Freshman Expository Writing through their reading of literature, writing, and personal reflection.

#### How should you read this book?

- Before reading (or early in the book), pick a theme from the following list.
  - Independence
  - Loss/Grief
  - Forgiveness
  - Prejudice
  - Empathy
  - Father/son relationships
- Annotations will not only earn you a grade upon returning to school but will also play a key role in our first major assignment. While reading, you should annotate by:
  - Highlighting or underlining at least 8-10 key passages that reflect your chosen theme
  - Briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note about how the passage reveals or connects to the theme.
- **Helpful tip:** Many students feel it is easier to understand when they listen to the audio *and* follow along with the text. You can find this book on Amazon/Audible.

#### How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book when you return?

- You will be asked to identify key moments in the story that shape the actions or traits of a character.
- There will be two writing assignments associated with the summer novel. The first assignment will pertain to an in-class discussion of the text, and the second will involve analyzing the theme you have chosen. The more annotations you can make as you read this summer, the more prepared you will be for supporting the arguments that you will be making in your writing assignments.

Please email Elizabeth Holliday at [eholliday@wcastl.org](mailto:eholliday@wcastl.org) if you have any questions.