



Westminster Christian Academy

9th Grade Summer Reading

Expository Writing

Trouble by Gary D. Schmidt

ISBN 978-0-547-33133-1

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 and track that theme throughout the entire novel.
 - 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 10-15 key passages that reflect your chosen theme, and consider how the main character Henry develops in his identity from the beginning of the novel to the end.
 - Briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note about how the passage reveals or connects to the theme you've picked and the theme of identity. Are there any connections that can be made between the two themes?
- **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 and his identity.
- When you return to school, you will engage in class discussions of the text, and you will complete your first writing assignment. The more annotations you make as you read the novel, the more prepared you will be for supporting and analyzing the arguments that you will develop in your writing.

Please email Elizabeth Holliday at eholliday@wcastl.org if you have any questions.