# 9th Grade Summer Reading

## **Freshman Expository Writing**

<u>Trouble</u> by Gary D. Schmidt ISBN 978-0547331331

#### Why are you reading this book?

- The protagonist, Henry Smith, is a teenager who lives in an idyllic town, Blythbury-by-the-Sea, but he encounters a life-changing experience that challenges him to view his world differently. He begins a journey with his dog to climb Mt. Katahdin to find what it means to live in a fallen and broken world.
- Identity is a theme that students will explore throughout their year in Freshman Expository Writing through their reading of literature, writing, and personal reflection. Gary D. Schmidt's novel is one account of how a person's identity is shaped.

#### What to look for as you read:

• Throughout the *entire* novel following Henry Smith's journey, underline or highlight and annotate key moments, specific lines, or impactful statements that reflect <u>one</u> of the themes below.

#### Themes:

- Loss and Grief
- Independence
- Prejudice
- Father/Son Relationships

### Optional Challenge Themes:

- Forgiveness
- Empathy

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

- Annotations While Reading:
  - Annotations are not only key passages that are highlighted or underlined but also include written ideas that show your thinking during reading.
  - While reading, you should annotate by:
    - Highlighting or underlining at least 15-25 key passages that reflect the chosen theme
    - Briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note that make connections using:
      - Text to text: a connection between the text and another text that you've read
      - Text to self: a connection between the text and your life experiences
      - Text to world: a connection between the text and the world
      - How the passage reflects or expands the theme
      - Questions: thought-provoking questions that help to clarify information or deepen discussion
  - See Example Annotation on the following page.
- Paragraph Assessment
  - When students return to school, they will be guided through the writing process to produce a typed, formal paragraph to conclude the unit.

Please email Elizabeth Holliday at <a href="mailto:eholliday@wcastl.org">eholliday@wcastl.org</a> if you have any questions.

1 fathers advice

HENRY SMITH'S FATHER told him that if you build your house far enough away from Trouble, then Trouble will never find you.

So the Smiths lived where their people had lived for exactly three hundred years, far away from Trouble, in Blythbury-by-the-Sea, where the currents of the Atlantic give up their last southern warmth to the coast of Massachusetts before they head to the cold granite shores of Maine. From the casement windows of his bedroom, Henry could look out over the feathery waves, and on sunny days—and it seemed as if all his life there had been only sunny days—he could open the leaded-glass doors and walk

onto a stone balcony and horizon. Henry's first we could remember was someant anything to him water that very morning Trouble was so far away

Henry Smith's house seventeenth-century me braced against the story zards that blew out of straight as the day the his hands along the gre Theme: Identity

Henry's identity has
been shaped by his family
and society. His father
"Keeps" his family from
trouble, and Henry lives
in a town where nothing
seems wrong. I don't like
his father's advice.