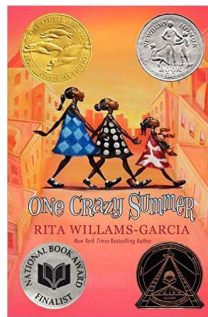


**Riverton Street Charter School
Incoming 6th Grade
English Language Arts**

Summer Reading Assignment

“One Crazy Summer”

Rita Williams-Garcia



Over the summer you will embark on reading a well-known novel entitled “One Crazy Summer.” This exciting novel is set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history. One Crazy Summer is the heartbreaking, yet funny tale of three girls in search of the mother who abandoned them in an unforgettable story told by a distinguished author of books for children and teens, Rita Williams-Garcia. You must purchase this book for yourself or pick up a copy from your local library. As you read the novel, you will complete a journaling activity. You will answer ten journal questions. These journal topics will draw from your life experience as well as the events from the novel, so you must read in order to complete your responses correctly. Your journal entries should be at least one to two complete paragraphs with sufficient details from the story to support your analysis. If you have any questions at all about this reading assignment or our class next year, please do not hesitate to email me at: 89.O.jackson@nhaschools.com. I will check my email regularly during the summer.

Suggested Journal- Questions

1. How would you describe Delphine's relationship with her sisters? How is it like your relationship with your sibling(s) or like the relationships of siblings you know? How is it different?
2. What does Delphine expect from Cecile? Do her expectations differ from Vonetta's and Fern's expectations? Why? What word or words would you use to describe Cecile?
3. What does Delphine decide about Oakland on her first night there? If you were in her place, would you have come to a similar conclusion? Have you ever felt similarly about a place you've visited? Did you discover anything that changed your mind?
4. Are Cecile and Delphine at all alike? How? How are they different? What does Cecile mean when she tells Delphine that it wouldn't kill her to be selfish?
5. What elements in the story give you clues about the characters' personalities? Some of the characters have objects that are closely associated with them, like Delphine and her Timex. What do these objects say about the characters? Can you find more examples of characters with close associations to objects in the story?
6. Names play an important role in the story. How does Cecile feel about names? How does she explain the name she gave herself, Nzila? Why is Delphine upset when she finds her name in the dictionary? Why does Cecile call Fern "Little Girl" for most of the book, and what finally causes her to call Fern "Fern"?
7. Are the Black Panthers Delphine observes at breakfast her first few mornings in Oakland like she expected them to be? What do you think she means when she says that "beating eggs never makes the evening news"?
8. Do you feel any sympathy for Cecile throughout the book? Does hearing Cecile's story at the end make you more sympathetic toward her? How does Delphine react to learning her mother's side of the story she's been hearing for years? How do you think you would have felt in her place?
9. What does the stool in the kitchen mean to Delphine? Does her relationship with Cecile change the evening the stool appears?
10. Do the sisters find what they were looking for on their trip to Oakland? Why, or why not?