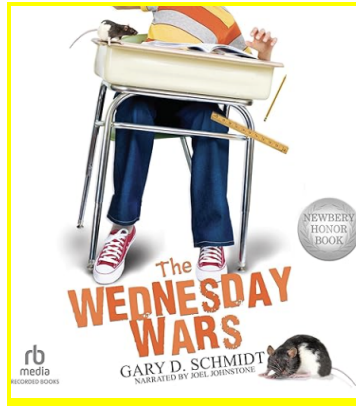


Weatherford Christian School
Grade 7 Summer Reading 2026
Teacher: Kelly Polk (kelly.polk@wcslions.org)



Just as physical exercise keeps our bodies healthy and in shape, reading and responding to literature will keep our reading skills sharp! The research is clear: kids who continue to read and think about books experience a gain in reading skills instead of a loss over the summer months. To encourage continued growth, you will earn your first test grade by reading a novel and completing an in-depth assignment over the summer. **This assignment is due on the first day of school, August 13, 2026.**

Step 1: ORDER A HARD COPY AND READ THE WEDNESDAY WARS BY GARY SCHMIDT

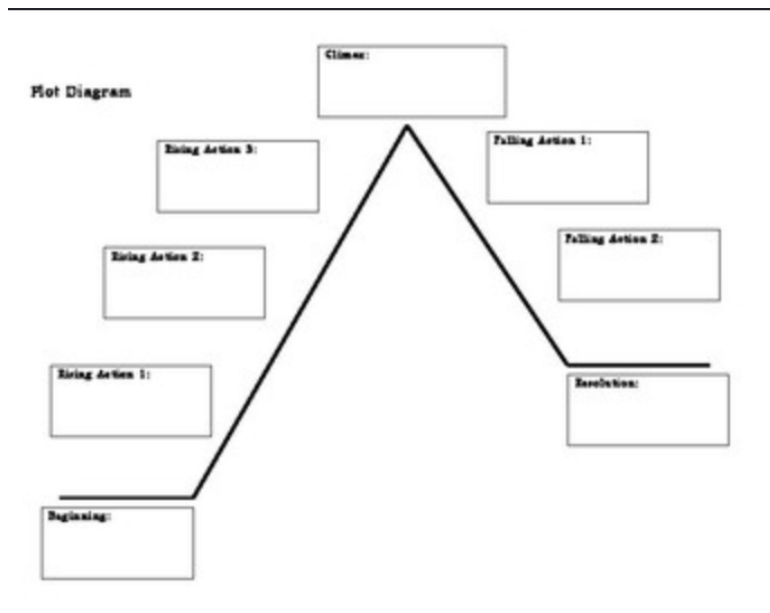
The Wednesday Wars is a wonderfully witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-68 school year in Long Island, New York. Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling - he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class?

But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: The success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much with which to contend? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights!

As you read, keep track of key events, characters, conflicts, and how all of these details build the story. It is helpful to mark key pages with **sticky notes** as you read when you come to important events. This will help you in **step 2** of this assignment.

Step 2: COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT BELOW: Plot Graph/Freytag's Pyramid:

Authors follow a structure in developing a story readers can follow, also known as the plot. You will create a plot graph highlighting the key events of the novel:



1. Exposition/Introduction- describes the setting, introduces the main characters, and sets up the novel's major problem (the conflict).
2. Rising actions- key events that develop the main problem to its most suspenseful moment. You must include at least 3 events with a solid description of the event, how the event builds to the climax, and a key line from the text for each event. Each piece of textual evidence (line from the text) must have proper MLA citation. Example: "Whatever it means to be a friend, taking a black eye for someone has to be in it" (Schmidt 103).
3. Climax- the most suspenseful moment of the novel where the major problem is at its worst. Must clearly summarize this event and include on direct line from the text with proper MLA citation. See example above.
4. Falling actions- events that lead to the resolution of the problem, bringing the story to an ending. You must include at least 3 events with a solid description of the event, how the event leads to the resolution of the story, and a key line from the text for each event. Each piece of textual evidence (line from the text) must have proper MLA citation. See example above.
5. Resolution- the major problem is resolved- not always in a happy way- and the story comes to a conclusion or end-point. Describe the resolution and how the multiple subplots and issues are resolved. Again, a resolution doesn't always mean a happy ending.

In this assignment, you will create a plot diagram that includes **all 5 plot elements** and **a key line from the novel with proper MLA citation for each element (7 different lines from the text total)**. **Finally, write a 5-10 sentence summary of the novel to include the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.**

If you have any questions or need help in completing your chosen assignment in the Summer Reading Challenge, please contact Mrs. Polk (kelly.polk@wcslions.org), Mrs. Harper (tina.harper@wcslions.org), or Mrs. Fell (penny.fell@wcslions.org). We are happy to encourage and help you!

Grade 7 Summer Reading 2026
The Wednesday Wars Plot Graph Rubric

Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Beginning	Points
Exposition / Introduction	Clearly and thoroughly introduces setting, main characters, and conflict with strong detail and clarity.	Includes setting, characters, and conflict with minor missing detail or clarity issues.	Missing one major element OR unclear explanation.	Incomplete or inaccurate exposition; major elements missing.	10
Rising Action (3 Events)	All 3 events are clearly described, show strong progression toward climax, and each includes accurate MLA-cited textual evidence.	All 3 events included with adequate detail and MLA citations; minor lack of depth.	Only 2–3 events included OR weak clarity/development or citation errors.	Fewer than 2 events OR missing textual evidence.	30
Climax	Clearly identifies the most suspenseful moment with strong explanation and accurate MLA-cited textual evidence.	Climax is identified with adequate explanation and mostly correct MLA citation.	Climax is unclear or missing proper citation.	Climax is missing or incorrect; no textual evidence.	10
Falling Action (3 Events)	All 3 events clearly described, strongly connected to resolution, and include accurate MLA citations.	All 3 events included with adequate explanation and mostly correct citations.	Only 2–3 events OR weak connection to resolution and/or citation issues.	Fewer than 2 events OR missing key details/evidence.	30
Resolution	Clearly explains how the conflict and subplots are resolved with strong understanding.	Resolution is clear but lacks minor detail or depth.	Resolution is vague or missing key details.	Resolution is missing or inaccurate.	10
MLA Citations (All Evidence)	All 7 citations are correctly formatted in MLA with no errors.	5–6 citations are correct with minor errors.	3–4 citations are correct; multiple errors or missing citations.	Fewer than 3 correct citations or no MLA format.	5
Novel Summary (5–10 sentences)	Clear, well-written summary covering beginning, middle, and end with strong understanding.	Includes beginning, middle, and end but lacks some detail or clarity.	Summary is incomplete or missing major plot sections.	Summary is missing, too short/long, or unclear.	5
Notes:					___/100