

7th grade
Summer Reading Assignment
2009-2010 school year

Read one of the following books and complete one of the written activities:

Scat by Carl Hiaasen (2009)

Although a strange note was left behind that explained her sudden absence from school, Nick and Marta are still doubtful about the whereabouts of their teacher, Mrs. Bunny Starch, since she went missing from a field trip to Black Vine Swamp, and so they set out together to discover the truth!

Flush by Carl Hiaasen (2005)

You know it's going to be a rough summer when you spend Father's Day visiting your dad in the local lockup.

Noah's dad is sure that the owner of the Coral Queen casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor—which has made taking a dip at the local beach like swimming in a toilet. He can't prove it though, and so he decides that sinking the boat will make an effective statement. Right. The boat is pumped out and back in business within days and Noah's dad is stuck in the clink.

Now Noah is determined to succeed where his dad failed. He will prove that the Coral Queen is dumping illegally . . . somehow. His allies may not add up to much—his sister Abbey, an unreformed childhood biter; Lice Peeking, a greedy sot with poor hygiene; Shelly, a bartender and a woman scorned; and a mysterious pirate—but Noah's got a plan to flush this crook out into the open. A plan that should sink the crooked little casino, once and for all.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (2002)

Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and—here's the odd part—wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail. The chase introduces him to potty-trained alligators, a fake-fart champion, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes with unnaturally sparkling tails.

Roy has most definitely arrived in Carl Hiaasen's Florida.

Written Activities:

All work must be neatly written or typed and of adequate length to complete the assignment as instructed. Work is due when you return to school.

Note: If you read Hoot, you must complete the first activity!

- **Write four paragraphs comparing and contrasting the book and the movie version of Hoot.** In addition to the introduction and conclusion paragraphs, write the first body paragraph about how the two are similar. The second body paragraph should show how the two are different.
- **Write a diary as if you were one of the main characters in the book.** Tell not only what is happening to you and others, but also how you feel about what is taking place. Make a minimum of ten sequential entries of at least five sentences each.
- **Write a one-page letter to the author.** Emphasize the parts of the book you liked best, one part you would change (telling how specifically), and name your favorite character. Tell exactly why you found the character likable or believable.
- **Pretend you are a book critic and write a book review for a newspaper.** Tell the name of the book, its author, something about the main characters, plot, setting and conflict. Do not reveal the ending, but evaluate the book and the author's writing ability by using specific examples.
- **Write a one-page biography of one character.** Use any and all information given by the author throughout the book. Write the facts about the character in chronological order, even if they weren't presented that way during the story.
- **Pretend you are a news reporter assigned to the obituary page.** **Write brief obituaries about two characters from the book.** Give pertinent information about their lives, showing readers what you have learned about them and the legacies they left.