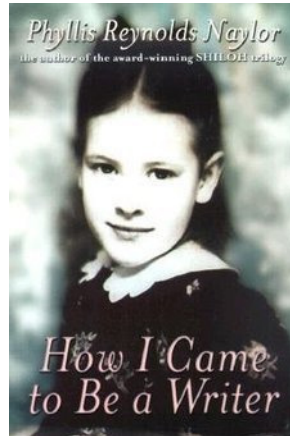


How I Came to Be a Writer by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

6th grade Gifted and Talented

Summer Reading Reflections and Assignment



In the 6th grade Gifted and Talented ELAR class, we reflect while we read. This can be done in a journal or directly in your book as annotations. Please reflect or think about the following questions as you read. Note ideas related to the questions and any questions of your own. Bring your reflections to class on the first day of school.

1. How did reading and writing help the author grow?
2. What personal characteristics and events in the author's life contributed to her becoming a writer?
3. How did the author's writing career change the lifestyle and expectations of her family?
4. What personal qualities of the author do you admire most?
5. How did family traditions or the author's community affect her life?
6. How did the author's culture (including family traditions, customs and writing expectations of the community, religion, and ethnic heritage) affect his or her writing?
7. What personal connections do you admire about the author's stories?

Congratulations! Once you have completed your reading and personal reflections, you are ready to complete your assignment. Pick two discussion topics to answer below. Responses must be no shorter than three paragraphs in length (with each paragraph being five to seven sentences). Bring all your work and book to class the first day of school.

1. If you've read any of Mrs. Reynolds' novels, what similarities between her real-life experiences and fictional characters do you notice? Give specific examples.
2. What personal characteristics and events in the author's life contributed to his or her becoming a writer? Give specific examples.
3. Pick your favorite story from the book, retell what happened, and explain in detail why it is your favorite story.
4. How did the writing career change the lifestyle and expectations of the authors' family? Give specific examples.
5. What personal qualities of the author do you admire most?
6. How did family's traditions or the author's community affect her life?
7. How did the author's culture (including family traditions, customs and writing expectations of the community, religion, and ethnic heritage) affect her writing?
8. What personal connections can you make to the stories the author shares in her autobiography? Please give examples.