



6th Grade Summer Reading

This summer, you will engage in a novel study titled, Out of My Mind, by Sharon Draper. Please review the summer reading response expectations and rubric.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITTEN READING RESPONSES

- Complete a total of **four written responses**. You will choose one question from a selection of questions for each section of the novel. We have divided the novel into four different sections.
- Each response should be written in complete sentences using correct capitalization, punctuation and spelling. Restate the question in your response.
- The response should be thoughtful and reflect a deep understanding of the text.
- Provide direct evidence from the text to support your conclusions.
- Explain your reasoning. Tell why you believe something to be true.
- You may write your answers neatly on a piece of lined paper or type and print your responses. You will turn them in during the first week of school.



Response Options for Section One
Chapters 1-7
(choose one)

1. The novel opens with a powerful discussion of the power of words and language. How does this help capture the reader's attention? What predictions can the reader make about the narrator of the story? What inferences can be made about the thought processes of the narrator's mind?

2. In a world that does not work for her, what seems to cause the biggest frustrations for Melody?

3. Describe Melody's parents. How do they learn to communicate with Melody and help her to overcome everyday problems? Why are those efforts sometimes a complete failure?

4. How does Melody feel about school? How does she fit in with her classmates and what makes her different from the rest of the children in H-5? What would be Melody's ideal school situation?

5. Discuss Melody's teachers since she began going to school. What does this say about her school system, or about attitudes at her school about teaching children with special needs?

6. Describe Mrs. V. What role does she play in Melody's development? Why is she a necessary addition to Melody's life?

Response Options for Section Two
Chapters 8-14
(choose one)

1. What is significant about the story of Ollie the fish? How does Ollie's life mirror Melody's? Describe Melody's feelings when she is unable to tell her mother what really happened.
2. Describe how the introduction of Penny as a character changes the family dynamics. Analyze Melody's complicated feelings about her little sister.
3. How does the inclusion program change Melody's school experiences? Describe both positive and negative results of the program. Describe Melody's deep, unrealized need for a friend.
4. What does Melody learn about friendship during the trip to the aquarium? Make a comparison between Ollie's life, the life of the fish in the aquarium, and Melody's life.

Response Options for Section Three
Chapters 15-20
(choose one)

1. Why does Melody decide to enter the quiz team competition? What obstacles must she face and overcome just to get on the team?
2. What does Melody learn about friendship and the relationships of children working together as she practices and competes with the quiz team? What does she learn about herself?
3. What is ironic about the events at the restaurant after the competition? How does this scene foreshadow the events that led up to the airport fiasco?
4. Describe Melody's feelings before the trip to the airport, while she is there, and after she gets home. How would you have coped with the same situation?

Response Options for Section Four

Chapters 21-33

(choose one)

1. Describe Melody's extreme range of emotions as she tries to tell her mother that Penny is behind the car. How did the scene make you feel?

2. Discuss the scene in which Melody confronts the kids on the quiz team. What is satisfying about how she handles the situation? What else might Melody have done?

3. Why is the first page repeated at the end of the book? How has Melody changed, both personally and socially, from the beginning of the book to the end?

4. How would this story have been different if it had been written from a third-person point of view; from the point of view of her parents, for example, or simply from the viewpoint of an outside observer?

Each response will be graded using the following rubric.

Reading Response	Effort	Conventions	Depth
3	Response displays excellent effort.	Response is written in complete sentences using correct capitalization, punctuation and spelling.	Response includes direct evidence from the text to support conclusions. The student explains their reasoning. Telling why they believe something to be true.
2	Response displays average effort.	Response is written in complete sentences with most words spelled correctly and has applied correct capitalization and punctuation.	Response uses evidence from the text to support conclusions. The student does not explain their reasoning.
1	Response displays minimal effort.	Responses are not written in complete sentences.	Response shows minimal knowledge of the text.

Total Score _____ / 12 points