

6th Grade Summer Reading 2020
***The Honest Truth* by Dan Gemeinhart**

Directions: Below are ten (10) reader-response questions that go along with the summer reading novel *The Honest Truth*. From these questions, choose FOUR (4) to answer for your summer reading assignment. All responses must be in complete sentences and answer all parts of each question. All assignments will be collected by the reading teachers during the first week of school.

- 1) Most of the events in a story build up to the climax, the most intense part where the protagonist (or main character) comes to the final confrontation with the conflict (or story's problem). Describe your book's climax and explain why that scene is the climax.
- 2) A story's point of view can be first person (I, me, my, etc.), second person (you, your, etc.), or third person (he, she, they, etc.). What is the point of view throughout *The Honest Truth*? Why do you think the author chose to structure the book in this way?
- 3) At one point in his journey, Mark breaks down and calls the tip hotline. He is in pain and has been robbed of his money. He is almost ready to give up, but instead he gives the police misleading information about where "the missing boy" is. Why do you think Mark changed his mind about what to tell the police?
- 4) Loyalty is a strong theme throughout the story. Mark's best friend, Jessie, realizes why Mark is missing and to where he has probably gone, but she chooses not to tell Mark's parents in the beginning. Mark's beloved dog Beau is equally loyal to Mark, risking his life as they climb the mountain. How far do you think loyalty should go when the person you are loyal to is in danger?
- 5) Pick a scene in the story that you connected with. What song would you have playing as a soundtrack to your chosen scene? In your response include the chapter and page of the scene, a very brief synopsis of what is happening in the scene, the song title and artist, and at least two reasons why you chose that particular song to go with the scene. Use evidence from both the text and the lyrics to analyze your choice.
- 6) In chapter 11, Gemeinhart uses figurative language to describe Mark's emotional landscape. "The aloneness howled louder than the wind. Louder, even, than my anger." What does this tell you about Mark at this point in the story?
- 7) Jessie is the only person Mark trusts to keep the secret of where he's gone, and why. Do you agree with Jessie's choice to respect Mark's wishes? What would you have done in her position?

- 8) Who do you think made the call to the hotline about Mark's whereabouts? Do you think it was Wesley or Jessie? Explain why you think that.
- 9) "A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet." Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
- 10) Mark is a fascinating character. Choose three character traits to describe Mark. Use text evidence to support each trait. Consider his thoughts, feelings, actions and his words.