**PACKET #1: DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

**TIGER RISING**

**PREVIEW:**

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author’s name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book is about? Describe the setting (city vs. country and how that may impact the story). Have you read other books by the author, if so—what were they like? Any common themes-topics emerge in author’s stories? Explain. What do you think may be the life lesson-theme-message here? Why?
2. In this novel, a character keeps powerful feelings locked up inside him. Why do you think he does this and how do you think it feels? Explain. You may make text to self connections, if necessary.
3. If you were to dream up the perfect friend, what would the person be like? What special qualities would he or she possess? How would this person be similar and different than you?
4. Discuss your feelings about animals in captivity. What problems may arise as a result?
5. Tell whether or not you agree with the following statements—tell why or why not:
* **If you ignore a bully he or she will go away.**
* **It is important to hide feelings of grief from others**
* **It is possible for a former enemy to become a good friend.**
* **A person with a contagious disease should be isolated from the community.**

**PART ONE: READ CHAPTERS 1-6.**

1. Prepare for post it chats.
2. Come up with at least three new vocabulary words with definitions and parts of speech or define the following words: defiantly, sullen, astounded.
3. Come up with your own high order thinking question and jot down your opinion.
4. Why does Rob dread school?
5. Do you agree with Rob’s father that it does no good to cry over a loss? Explain.
6. Why do you think the author chose to begin the story after Rob discovered the tiger?
7. In your opinion, what is the best way to deal with bullies? Would you have acted like Rob or Sistine if you were faced with bullies? Explain.
8. Why do you imagine Rob had developed a way of not thinking about certain things? Did this help or hurt him? Explain.
9. A hook in literature refers to a passage at the beginning of a book that demands a reader’s attention and encourages the reader to continue on in the book. What is the hook at the beginning of this book?
10. Interpret this piece of figurative language: The fog was hugging the ground. What kind of figurative language is it?

**WRINGER-PREVIEW:**

1. Preview the book by reading the title and author’s name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. Then read the “newspaper article” that precedes the first chapter. What do you think the book will be about? Humorous or serious? What do you think the setting will be like and what role may it play in the story? Predict what life-lesson or theme may be.
2. Wringer is a story about a boy who questions authority, never accepts the status quo. Discuss any real or fictional characters you know who questioned the standard practices of their communities in the era in which they lived.
3. Do you think young people have the right to question authority? Under what circumstances might this be correct? When is it not correct? Who are some authority figures in your life—school-home—community and in government? Have you ever questioned the rules or practices of these authorities? Explain. What were the consequences of your defiance?
4. What is peer pressure? What are some kinds of peer pressure kids your age face?
5. A rite of passage is a ceremony that marks a person’s change from one stage of life to another. Discuss some rites of passage you are familiar with.
6. Discuss whether or not you agree or not with the following statements:
* Parents should accept the friends their children choose
* A violent society breeds violence in its children.
* Children should rebel against injustice in society.
* Peer pressure can make a person act in a way that he or she would not normally act.
* Pigeons are stupid, dirty, annoying birds

**PART ONE: READ CHAPTERS 1-4**

1. Prepare for post it chats.
2. Come up with at least three new vocabulary words with definitions and parts of speech or define the following words: meek, anxious, contradiction
3. Come up with your own high order thinking question and jot down your opinion.
4. How is Palmer different from his peers?
5. Why do you think the author began the novel with a newspaper clipping?
6. Why was Palmer able to deny the boys’ lack of good manners while his mother was not?
7. Why do you think Beans had become the undisputed leader of all the nine and under kids?
8. Do you think Palmer should have criticized or questioned the behavior of the three boys who came to the party? Explain.
9. What is being compared at the beginning of chapter one with Palmer’s feelings about the pigeon shoot? Why is this an appropriate comparison?
10. What is the flashback in this section of the novel?

**BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE PREVIEW:**

1. Preview the cover, back and illustration. What do you think it will be about? This story is set in rural Florida. What may the climate and geography be like? Find out!!! Then apply the role of the setting in the story as you read.

What may the theme be?

1. Discuss what ingredients go into a long lasting friendship.
2. The main character is curious about other people and asks questions to find out what she wants to know. What are a few questions you may ask someone you don’t know well but want to get to know?
3. What are some pros and cons of owning a pet?
4. What are your feelings about people with physical and mental disabilities?
5. Tell whether or not you agree with the following ideas:
* A young person can never be friends with a much older person.
* It must be difficult to be the child of a preacher.
* Life can be both good and bad at the same time.
* A stray animal is nothing but trouble and problems.

**PART ONE: READ CHAPTERS 1-4**

1. Prepare for post it chats.
2. Come up with at least three new vocabulary words with definitions and parts of speech or define the following words: sermon, constellation, distracted.
3. Come up with your own high order thinking question and jot down your opinion.
4. Describe Winn Dixie.
5. Why do you suppose the preacher let India Opal keep the stray dog? What did this show about him?
6. Why do you imagine India Opal talked so much to her new pet?
7. What do you think India Opal learned about her mother from the ten things her father told her?
8. How did this information make her feel about her missing parent?
9. “Mostly he looked like a big piece of old brown carpet that had been left out in the rain.” What is being compared? What kind of figurative language is it? What does this tell you about the stray dog?
10. “I could see him (India Opal’s father) pulling his old turtle head back into his stupid turtle shell”. What is being compared? What kind of figurative language is this? What does this reveal about India Opal’s father? And what does it reveal about Opal’s feelings about her father?

**A DOG’S LIFE: PREVIEW**

1. Preview the book. What do you think it may be about? What may the setting be like? What role may it play in the story? What theme may emerge?
2. Have you read anything by this author before? If so, what was it? Any common topics-themes the author writes about?
3. The author writes this story in first person perspective of the dog? Why do you think she does this? What impact may it have on the story?
4. Why do you think some dogs may fear humans? What could people do to make them less afraid?
5. Why do you think that some people experience a strong human-canine connection?

**PART ONE: READ CHAPTERS 1-3**

1. Prepare for post it chats.
2. Come up with at least three new vocabulary words with definitions and parts of speech or define the following words:: ajar, haunches, misshappen.
3. Come up with your own high order thinking question and jot down your opinion.
4. In the opening chapter, Squirrel mentions many kinds of conditions experienced by the dogs she has known. Then she reflects that "I've known all these dogs, and I've been all these dogs." What does she mean by this statement?
5. Do you think the Merrions will ever notice the dogs living on their property? Why or why not?
6. Do you think the mother dog chose a good place to raise her pups? Explain.
7. Do you think the wheelbarrow was a good place for Mother to have her pups? Why or why not?
8. Describe how the creatures in the shed got food.
9. Why do you think the Merrions wanted to kill the fox?
10. The last sentence of this chapter tells us that Mother left and never came back. What do you think happened?