



Watertown Middle School

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Dear Parents and Guardians of Watertown Middle School Students:

All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of summer vacation (Cooper, 1996).

Over the next few weeks, your student will be receiving an outline of the requirements for summer reading and writing. Watertown Middle School's "One School, One Book" for the summer of 2010 will be Peak by Roland Smith.

In the fall of 2010 your child's new English teacher will collect the assignments from students during the week of September 13th. The projects will be graded and will also be used in homeroom activities. **Since this grade will be recorded in both English and reading classes as their first major grade for the first school term, students will be rewarded for their summer efforts.** In addition to reading and completing assignments on Peak, we will be asking students to read 2-3 books at their reading level and come back to school prepared to write/complete a project on one or more of the books. Please refer to the suggested reading lists on the Watertown Middle School website.

In addition to assigned summer reading, we encourage students to inquire about teen summer reading programs at their public libraries. Public libraries are in a remarkable position to expose students to great quantities and varieties of print and meaningful language opportunities that are crucial to reading achievement. Books on tape, literary movies, periodicals and alternative literature forms are all language rich and comprehension and vocabulary building opportunities. Students may enjoy the freedom of choice in reading afforded them by a summer vacation as well. The National Reading Panel reported in the year 2000, "The more students read the better their fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing."

Please join us in supporting your child's continued progress in the areas of reading and writing. Our best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer!

Watertown Middle School
Summer Reading Packet
Peak

Directions:

- 1) Read this entire packet **before** you begin reading the book.
- 2) As you read *Peak*, complete the activities in this packet.
- 3) Be sure to schedule ample time for each activity. Answers should be complete and thorough well before the first day of school!

Major Character Peak Marcello is the main character in this novel because he goes through the most changes, and it is his voice we hear as we read the story.

- 1) List Peak's characteristics and traits, both inside and out, as you read through the story - use nouns and adjectives. You should be able to come up with at least 20 words to describe Peak. An example has been done for you.

Major Character:	PEAK
1) List of Characteristics and Traits: (at least 20 - not including the four examples)	Example: ✓ fourteen ✓ climber ✓ smart ✓ writer

Find at least 6 quotes from the book that describe how Peak thinks, feels, acts, talks and views the world. An example has been done for you.

PAGE #	QUOTE	What does this show about Peak?
36	<i>"To get up a rock wall you study the outside, trying to pick the best footholds and handholds, guessing where you're going to encounter problems."</i>	<i>This shows that Peak thinks strategically and carefully plans out every move while he's climbing so that he is safe. He is also a problem solver and tries to anticipate where the problems will be.</i>

PAGE #	QUOTE	What does this show about Peak?

Minor Characters

There are many other characters in *Peak*. To help you understand the minor characters, create a complete chart about each minor character below. An example has been done for you:

Character:	Their relationship with Peak:	How they affect who Peak is and who he becomes:
The "Two Peas" (Patrice and Paula)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Peak's twin half sisters✓ Share the same birthday with Peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ He wants to be a good role model for them✓ He begins to make decisions based on what they may think.✓ They adore and idolize him
Peak's Mom		
Rolf		
Sun-jo		

Joshua Wood		
Zopa		
Holly Angelo		
Captain Shek		

Setting

As you read the book, take sensory detail notes (your five senses) about the following places in the novel:

Place:	Sensory Details	Draw a picture of the place:
Courtroom		
Kathmandu		
Base Camp		
ABC Camp		
"Top of the World"		

Conflicts

There are many major and minor conflicts throughout the novel. As you read the book, keep track of at least 4 major or minor conflicts and complete the chart below. An example has been done for you. Fill in the blanks when you get to the end of the book...we don't want to give it away!!!

Explain the CONFLICT	Who was involved?	Resolution
Josh and Peak's mom. You get the feeling throughout the book that she is at odds with Josh. Also, she is worried about her son and if she has been a good mother, and hopes that she has made the right decisions for Peak over the years.	Peak's mom, Josh, and Peak	Peak realizes how much his _____ and his _____ means to him. At the end of the novel he decides to _____ and be with _____ because they are so important to him.

BREAKING NEWS!!!

Holly Angelo wrote freelance articles and went to Mt. Everest looking for a hit story about Peak's climb to the top of Mt. Everest. Throughout the novel she continually asks Peak for an interview when his experience was over. Think about the "big story" she would publish in a leading New York newspaper.

What questions would she ask Peak by the novel's end? Come up with at least 5 questions that Holly would ask and also provide Peak's response to each question. Questions must be written in sentence form. If you ask a question that requires a "yes" or "no" response, please explain your answer.

For example:

Holly: Did you enjoy this experience?

Inappropriate response:

Peak: Yes

Appropriate response:

Yes, Holly. Being from parents who are world class climbers, this opportunity allowed me to experience the challenge of mountain climbing. I was introduced to many types of equipment and mountain climbing scenarios that challenged both my physical and mental abilities. I also learned plenty about myself and my family.

This part of the assignment must be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font and double spaced. Please check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.



PEAK YOUR INTEREST!

- 1) Visit the author's website and watch the Peak video with your group:
<http://www.rolandsmith.com/>

Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached.

He wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

- 2) Read the article

13-Year-Old Youngest To Top Mount Everest

By CARA ANNA, *Associated Press Writer* – Sat May 22, 2010

A 13-year-old American boy became the youngest climber to reach the top of Mount Everest on Saturday, surpassing the previous record set by a 16-year-old Nepalese.

Jordan Romero called his mother by satellite phone from the summit of the world's highest mountain, 29,035 feet (8,850 meters) above sea level. He is now one climb away from his quest to conquer the highest peaks on all seven continents.

"He says, 'Mom, I'm calling you from the top of the world,'" Leigh Anne Drake told The Associated Press from California, where she had watched her son's progress on a GPS tracker online.

"There were lots of tears and 'I love you! I love you!'" Drake said. "I just told him to get his butt back home."

The teenager with long curly hair — who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa when he was 9 years old — says he was inspired by a painting in his school hallway of the seven continents' highest summits.

"Every step I take is finally toward the biggest goal of my life, to stand on top of the world," Jordan said earlier on his blog.

The former record for the youngest climber to scale Everest had been held by Temba Tsheri of Nepal. He reached the peak at age 16.

Also Saturday, officials said a Nepalese Sherpa who lives in the Salt Lake City suburb of Draper broke his own world record by climbing Everest for the 20th time. Apa, who goes by one name, went up with fellow climbers on a mission also to collect garbage, a growing environmental problem on the mountain.

Mountaineering Department official Tilak Pandey said several climbers took advantage of Saturday's clear weather to reach the summit.

Jordan's climbing team reached the peak hours earlier than expected.

"The first thing, they all hugged each other and said, 'I love you, I can't believe we're finally here' and started crying," said Rob Bailey, the team's spokesman, by phone from the United States.

Jordan, from Big Bear, California, was climbing Everest with his father, his father's girlfriend and three Sherpa guides. He left for the peak from the base camp on the Chinese side.

Everest was his first challenge above 26,240 feet (8,000 meters).

Unlike neighboring Nepal, the other approach to Everest, China has no age limit for climbers. Jordan registered with Chinese officials in April, said Zhang Mingxing, secretary general of China Tibet Mountaineering Association.

No interview with Jordan would be possible until he returns to advance base camp, which could take a couple of days, Bailey said. Climbers stay overnight at three or four camps before the summit, depending on their route and pace.

Jordan carried a number of good luck charms, including a pair of kangaroo testicles given to him by a friend who has cancer.

"That's the one that probably meant the most," Bailey said.

At the summit, Jordan left behind his lucky rabbit's foot and planted some seeds that a Buddhist monk at a local monastery had given him for luck on his journey, Bailey said. Then he took the satellite phone and called his mom.

Jordan continues the recent trend of young adventurers. Earlier this month, 16-year-old Australian Jessica Watson became the youngest person to sail around the globe solo, nonstop and unassisted. Thousands lined Sydney Harbor to cheer as she cruised past the finish line in her pink yacht.

A Dutch court late last year blocked an even younger sailor, 14-year-old sailor Laura Dekker, from pursuing a similar round-the-world voyage, ordering her to prepare more and wait at least until this year before starting.

And in January, 17-year-old Johnny Collinson of Utah became the youngest person to climb the highest peaks on all seven continents.

Just one mountain remains in Jordan's own quest to climb those peaks, the Vinson Massif in Antarctica.

Jordan's team leaves for Antarctica in December, Bailey said.

"A piece of cake," his mother said.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) What inspired Jordan to reach his goal?
- 2) Think about your own life, what goals have you set for yourself?
- 3) What has inspired you while reaching your goals?
- 4) After reading this article, what are some themes that are presented? How can you relate to these themes? Predict how these themes might relate to the book *Peak*.