

8th Grade Summer Reading
Summer 2026
Mrs. Holli

Students will be required to read the novel, *Terror at Bottle Creek* by Watt Key and answer the following questions. Questions will be turned in on the first day back to school and one of the following questions will be used as a writing prompt. Both assignments will be graded. Please answer the questions using complete sentences. Answers can be typed or handwritten. I hope you all have a fabulous summer and I am looking forward to a year full of learning and growing!

1. How does the setting of this story contribute to the characters' struggle for survival?
2. How does this story show us the importance of teamwork in order for survival? Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.
3. How does Cort's character develop throughout the story? What experiences did he have in the story that contributed to this character development?
4. Describe the relationship between Cort and Catfish. Why do you feel that this relationship is so important to Cort? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. What does this novel portray about the impact of natural disasters on people and communities? Although not nearly as severe, our communities suffered the wrath of Hurricane Helene in 2024. Describe how you witnessed your community pull together, protect, and rebuild. Compare and contrast the effects Hurricane Helene had on you and your family to the effects this hurricane had on Cort in the novel.
6. How does this story show us the importance of teamwork in order for survival? Use specific examples from the text to support your answer. **What are some characteristics that are essential for teams to be successful? What qualities could a team possess that could have a negative impact on the success of the team? How has teamwork impacted your life?**