

## Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

### Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

This Summer all middle school students will be reading Wishtree by Katherine Applegate. After your child has finished reading the assigned book, they will choose ONE of the 7 options below to complete and turn in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school, August 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. This will count as a test grade. The next week, we will review the book and on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a novel test. This book is a quick read and quite enjoyable!

Here is a link to the book introduction video:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-P5TSKKBlyo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-P5TSKKBlyo)

**Directions:** Choose one of the following activities (1-7) to complete when you're finished reading the summer reading book *Wishtree*.

*Choices 1 – 4 could be done either through a Power Point with 5-8 slides OR a one-page written description in paragraph form. \*If you do a Power Point, please make sure you have emailed it to me: hrondeau@louisiana.gov*

1. Research the history of wishing trees in various cultures. How many ways can you discover that people have used wishing trees throughout history? What is the importance of these trees for the people who bring wishes to them?
2. Investigate a folktale or legend in which trees are an important symbol in the plot. Summarize the folktale/legend and connect the importance of the tree to the folktale/legend.
3. Explore information about the red oak tree. What qualities of this type of tree make it a good choice for this story? How many facts about the red oak tree can you discover? Write a paragraph about the unique characteristics of a red oak tree and where it is most likely to grow.
4. Why does Francesca want to initially cut the tree down? Create one list for keeping the tree and one list for cutting it down. After creating your two lists, review these pros and cons and formulate your opinion explaining which side you're on.

*Choices 5-7 incorporate a variety of different activities- photography, designing a poster, and creating a new book jacket.*

5. Visit the following link - <http://imaginepeacetower.com/yoko-onos-wish-trees/> Create your own Imagine Peace "Tree". Add your wishes. Family and friends can add their wishes as well. Take a photo of your tree to share in school.
6. Make a "before" and "after" poster that shows what Red looks like on the first day of May and then what he looks like on the last day of May.
7. This book lends itself to having a sequel. Create a book jacket for the sequel. Be sure to add the title, a cover illustration, and a summary of this sequel on the back.

**If you have any questions about the assignment, please feel free to email me: [hrondeau@louisiana.gov](mailto:hrondeau@louisiana.gov)**