

Incoming Seventh Grade Summer Reading

Welcome to Seventh Grade at Grace!

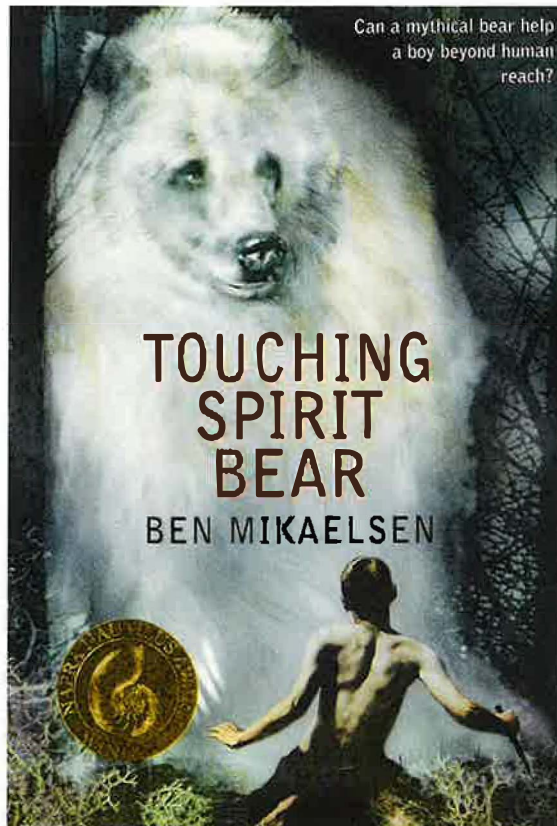
This year, incoming seventh graders are to read *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. Complete the attached assignment and bring it with you on the first day of school. You may purchase the book or borrow it from your library.

If you need another copy of the assignment you can find it at: jhwolfanger.com

If you are participating in the summer reading challenge, you may certainly include this book towards your goal, but even if you do not participate in the reading challenge, this is a mandatory assignment for seventh grade English class and will receive a grade.

I look forward to working with you next year.

Ms. Wolfanger



Due Date:
First Day of School

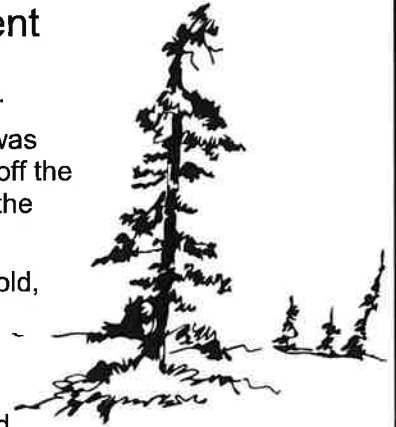
Touching Spirit Bear

Summer Reading Assignment

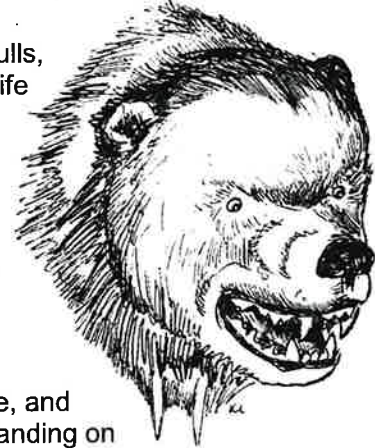
Touching Spirit Bear
By Ben Mikaelson

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank to the left of each item.

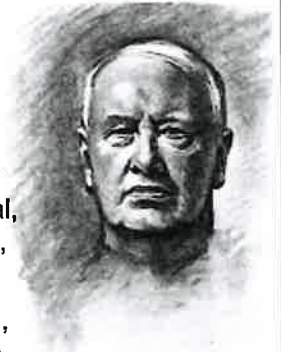
- _____ 1. The Island where Cole Matthews agreed to live for a year was located (A) in the middle of a huge lake in Minnesota, (B) off the coast of Alaska, (C) just inside the Canadian border near the mouth of a large river, (D) off the coast of Nova Scotia.
- _____ 2. Cole was (A) 14 years old, (B) 15 years old, (C) 16 years old, (D) 17 years old.
- _____ 3. Cole's banishment to the island was the result of (A) his failed attempt to rob a hardware store, (B) his long record of truancy, petty theft, and assault, (C) chronic truancy and running away from home (D) the violent beating he gave Peter Driscala for ratting on him.
- _____ 4. In the past, Cole had been (A) in trouble at school, but never with the law, (B) in many police stations, several detention centers, and two residential treatment centers, (C) able to avoid getting caught for most of the petty crimes he had committed. (D) a good kid.
- _____ 5. Which of the following was **not** true of Cole's parents? (A) They were divorced. (B) Mr. Matthews was an alcoholic, and he beat Cole. (C) Cole's strong-willed mother constantly argued and fought with his father, (D) They had always hired a lawyer to help him get out of trouble.
- _____ 6. Cole agreed to get involved in Circle Justice because he (A) didn't want to be tried as an adult and sent to jail, (B) thought it sounded more like fun than punishment, (C) enjoyed being alone, especially outdoors, (D) was a little afraid of Garvey.
- _____ 7. The purpose of Circle Justice was to (A) heal, not to punish, (B) isolate offenders and force them to deal with their thoughts, (C) create suffering for the offender and peace for the victim, (D) bring the offender back to his beginnings.
- _____ 8. The atóow that Garvey handed Cole (A) was a plain brown blanket that had been woven by a Tlingit healer, (B) was made totally from strands of animal hair, (C) had images of bears woven into the fabric from corner to corner, (D) was entrusted into Cole's care to be passed on later to someone he trusted.
- _____ 9. Garvey was (A) Cole's youth probation officer and the person who suggested Circle Justice as an alternative to jail, (B) a counselor at the detention center where Cole had been held for the past several months, (C) a Tlingit elder who read about Cole in a newspaper and became interested in his case, (D) Cole's court-appointed attorney.
- _____ 10. Shortly after being left alone on the island, Cole (A) had a frightening encounter with a large bear, (B) burned the shelter and everything in it, (C) became violently ill after eating wild berries that he found growing near the stream, (D) discovered a cave where he thought he might hide from Garvey and Edwin.
- _____ 11. Cole's plan to escape by swimming from island to island to the mainland failed because (A) the water was near freezing, and his body went totally numb almost immediately, (B) there were several large whales feeding in the bay, (C) the nearest island was farther away than it appeared, and he didn't have the strength to reach it., (D) the incoming tide kept him from reaching the bay and pushed him back to shore.
- _____ 12. When he first saw the Spirit Bear, Cole was filled with rage because (A) he did not want to share his island with a stupid bear, (B) the animal stared at him and it showed no fear, (C) it seemed to be looking down on Cole in disgust, (D) Garvey and Edwin had left him to face an animal that could easily kill him.



- ___ 13. The object that was passed around signaling a person's turn to speak at the Circle meetings was a (A) beaded arm band, (B) small carved eagle, (C) feather, (D) the Keeper's gavel.
- ___ 14. During one of the Circle meetings, Cole exploded in anger and shouted to the crowd about (A) the beatings he had endured from his drunken father, (B) his mother's brave attempts to save him from his father's beatings, (C) his disgust with Peter Driscall's woman lawyer, (D) being treated like a helpless kid by stupid adults.
- ___ 15. At the fifth Circle meeting, the idea of banishing Cole to the island was suggested by (A) Garvey, (B) Peter Driscall's lawyer, (C) the Keeper, (D) Cole himself.
- ___ 16. Cole was mauled by the Spirit Bear when (A) the animal attacked him for the fish that he had taken from the seagulls, (B) he tried to kill it with a sapling spear and a charred knife blade, (C) it came upon Cole while he was drinking from the stream near the bay, (D) Cole made the mistake of running when he accidentally startled the animal.
- ___ 17. Which of the following was **not** among Cole's injuries? (A) a broken pelvis, (B) a broken and mangled right arm, (C) ripped flesh and broken ribs, (D) a dislocated and crushed shoulder.
- ___ 18. Soaked with rain and lying under a large tree, Cole was infuriated by the sight of (A) baby sparrows, well-fed, safe, and dry in a nest their mother had built, (B) the Spirit Bear, standing on the shore and defiantly staring at him, (C) the atóow lying only several feet away, but totally out of his reach, (D) the moon staring down at him like a giant eye.
- ___ 19. During the night, an explosive lightning strike filled Cole with (A) a combination of fear and determination, (B) heightened rage against the people who had sent him to the island, (C) a sense of helplessness and a realization that he had always been weak, (D) an anger toward his parents and all who had wronged him greater than any he had ever felt.
- ___ 20. Lying helpless on the ground after the storm, Cole decided he wanted to live when he realized that he had hurt himself, his life was meaningless unless he found some meaning, he had wasted his choices on revenge and self pity, and (A) he didn't want to disappear into the cycle of life and death, (B) in death, there are no choices, (C) he still had the determination it would take to heal, (D) it was determination, not anger, that made life worth the living.
- ___ 21. Which of the following was **not** something that Cole ate in his determination to live? (A) grass, (B) worms, (C) a mouse, (D) a seagull.
- ___ 22. When he awoke to find the Spirit Bear standing over him, rather than spitting at the animal as he had done before, Cole (A) whispered to the animal that he was ready to die, (B) thought about how he was like the baby sparrows begging to live, (C) reached out and touched the bear's shoulder and felt trust, (D) closed his eyes and waited for the final blow.
- ___ 23. Cole tossed the wad of white hair he had pulled from the Spirit Bear into the water just before he was airlifted to Ketchikan because (A) he wasn't lying about the bear, and from now on his words would be his only proof, (B) Edwin didn't believe his story, and a wad of white hair would not convince him, (C) he had been so delirious, he couldn't trust his own memory as to where he got the hair, (D) he wanted to forget the whole island and everything that had happened there.



- _____ 24. Cole learned that when his father was a boy, (A) he had been sent to several detention centers, (B) he had seen his parents drink daily, (C) his parents had beaten him for everything he did, (D) his parents had divorced, but continued to fight with each other.
- _____ 25. During the Circle meeting to determine Cole's fate after his failure on the island, Edwin pushed Cole and sent him sprawling to the floor to demonstrate that (A) Cole's anger no longer controlled his actions, (B) the two days of dramatic events on the island could cause Cole to change, (C) Cole's injuries made him as helpless as Peter, (D) anyone, including Cole, could be pushed too far.
- _____ 26. Edwin did not believe Cole had seen a white bear until (A) he saw it himself when he went there for a visit, (B) it had been seen several times in the village of Drake, (C) fishermen spotted one near Cole's island, (D) he found the white hair that Cole had thrown into the water.
- _____ 27. Which of the following was **not** a condition for Cole's return to the island? He (A) would build his own cabin, (B) would have to sell his possessions and pay for everything himself, (C) was released into Garvey and Edwin's custody, (D) had to stay for a year and two months.
- _____ 28. The food that Garvey prepared to illustrate that life is what you make of it was (A) a hamburger, (B) a stew made from items gathered from the island, (C) a hot dog, (D) fish from the bay and berries from the forest.
- _____ 29. Edwin used a stick, one end representing happiness and the other representing anger, to teach Cole that (A) he can never get rid of his anger, but he can focus on the happiness, (B) happiness cannot exist without anger, (C) happiness and anger are the same thing, (D) he cannot get rid of anger without also destroying happiness.
- _____ 30. Soaking in the chilly pond helped Cole (A) tolerate the cold winter that engulfed the island, (B) clear his mind and soothe his aching body, (C) focus on his future, (D) forgive his parents and others who had hurt him a little each day until all the anger was gone.
- _____ 31. Climbing the rocky slope after a soak in the pond represented Cole's life, and the stone he carried represented (A) his violent past that weighed him down, (B) his struggle to choose between anger and happiness, (C) his ancestors, teaching him the lessons of their struggles, (D) his connection with Garvey, Edwin, and the Spirit Bear.
- _____ 32. When Cole reached the top of the hill and put the stone he carried on the ground, it became his (A) anger, (B) future, (C) spirit, (D) ability to choose.
- _____ 33. Edwin said that maybe he and Garvey helped Cole as a way to (A) find acceptance and forgiveness within the tribe, (B) make up for their own mistakes, since they were not able to help those they hurt, (C) stop the circle of hate and violence that hurts everyone, (D) preserve the idea of Circle Justice and its use outside the tribe.
- _____ 34. The wolf dance taught Cole that (A) staying out of sight is beneficial, (B) there is strength in being alone, (C) hunter and prey are equals, (D) sometimes you need the help of others.
- _____ 35. When he first saw the log that Cole had begun carving into a totem, Edwin knew that Cole (A) was still harboring anger, (B) had tried to carve a canoe from it, (C) was beginning to understand anger, (D) did not understand the purpose of a totem.
- _____ 36. Cole saw the Spirit Bear again after he learned to become invisible by (A) sitting perfectly still and breathing slowly, (B) covering himself with forest and animal scents, (C) clearing his mind so that he became part of his surroundings, (D) lying still on the ground, as he had when he had been injured.



- _____ 37. Which of the following was **not** part of Cole's dance of anger? He (A) asked forgiveness for hurting Peter, (B) sobbed that he was sorry and cried, "I forgive you," (C) danced half the night, (D) sent away the last of his anger by scattering the coals from the fire.
- _____ 38. The one thing that Cole could not decide how to carve on his totem was (A) forgiveness and healing, (B) his invisibility, (C) the shame he felt for hurting Peter, (D) the Spirit Bear.
- _____ 39. Sometimes during the winter, Cole cried himself to sleep from (A) shame, (B) regret and frustration, (C) loneliness, (D) fear of the unknown.
- _____ 40. Cole convinced Edwin that Peter should come to the island when (A) he realized that the only way to heal was to confront his enemies, (B) Edwin reported that Peter was growing more violent and behaving as Cole once had, (C) the Circle suggested it as the best way for both boys to heal, (D) he learned that Peter had attempted suicide for a second time.
- _____ 41. The person who stayed on the island with Cole and Peter was (A) Edwin, (B) Peter's father, (C) Garvey, (D) the Circle Keeper.
- _____ 42. Cole's first attempt to connect with Peter was through a (A) carved bear, (B) Snickers bar, (C) hot dog feast, (D) trip to the soaking pond.
- _____ 43. Until Peter was no longer afraid of him, Cole agreed to (A) sleep in a leaky tent instead of inside the cabin, (B) speak only when Peter started the conversation, (C) stay at least two arm lengths away, (D) do all the cooking while Peter watched.
- _____ 44. Peter was good at (A) dancing, (B) carving, (C) making jokes, (D) cooking over a campfire.
- _____ 45. Which of the following was **not** something that Peter did to Cole? He (A) left the cabin door open when he went to the bathroom during the night so Cole would have to get up to close it, (B) destroyed the bear carving on his totem, (C) stole his clothing while he soaked in the pond, (D) shoved him to the ground.
- _____ 46. Because of Cole, Peter had headaches and nightmares, and he (A) couldn't think straight or walk without stumbling, (B) was in constant pain, (C) had fainting spells that came on without warning, (D) suffered from convulsions.
- _____ 47. When Peter attacked him, Cole (A) ran to the soaking pond, (B) refused to fight back or run, (C) was able to control his rage, but defended himself with a single punch, (D) screamed for help.
- _____ 48. When the two boys sat together on the ground while Peter cried and allowed Cole to hug him, (A) Cole thought he caught a glimpse of the Spirit Bear across the bay, (B) Peter understood that Cole had changed, and his fear disappeared, (C) the sun suddenly burst through the clouds, (D) the Spirit Bear appeared close by and gazed at them for a full minute.
- _____ 49. Cole gave the atóow to (A) Peter, (B) Garvey, (C) Peter's mother, (D) his mother.
- _____ 50. What did Cole and Peter carve into the blank space on Cole's totem? (A) a full figure of a bear, (B) an outstretched hand, (C) a circle, (D) a baby bird.

