

Be sure to choose books that you enjoy for the summer. Choose books that are neither too easy nor too hard for you. Remember that you will be able to tell if you like a book and how difficult it is in about the first 30 pages.

**Below you will find a few sample journal entries from students in the past:**  
(Quotations from the text have been removed.)

**#1** Chapter Six--Tim goes to Mr. Heron who tells him to come the next morning to pick up the letter. In the morning, Tim picks up the letter. On the road, Betsy asks about the letter. They get into a fight and Betsy gets the letter. She opens it and inside it says, "If this message is received, the we will know that the messenger is reliable." What Betsy did was horrible. What if she had shown the attribute of caring? She had no business with the letter. If this story had been nonfiction, I wonder if she would really have reacted like that? I predict that Mr. Heron will not trust Tim and he will go back home. I think Sam is well off into the war and will never come back. I think he will be ashamed to see his father.

**#2** Dear Journal,

It turns out that Carolina (Joseph's mother) didn't need to worry at all about seeing the girl that looks like Margareta. She and her supposed "uncle" are always either out of the boarding house or in their room. What could they be doing? Sometimes they are very secretive about coming and leaving. Why? Later, Cassandra asks Joseph if it is true that he can read minds. She asks him whether making money off his "gift" affects his abilities. Is he being principled? He doesn't understand what she's talking about and waves the question off. I am wondering if she really is clairvoyant. The next day there is an ad in the paper for a "natural clairvoyant" at Mrs. McKenna's boarding house, Mademoiselle Delphine, Cassandra. She is able to see the past, present, and future and diagnose ailments. My prediction was correct. I think that she really does possess second sight, which definitely makes this fantasy fiction rather than nonfiction. I doubt that it is a fake. Sincerely,  
Me

**#3** The 7<sup>th</sup> chapter consists of the reactions of the boys, Manny and Michael. Michael had always told Carlos that he didn't have time for girls. He was too concentrated on baseball. Carlos always replied, "Oh, you'll make time." Michael now understands what Carlos had been telling him all these years. He realized that the attribute of communication is key. As Manny and Michael talked to Ellie, the mystery girl, Michael liked her more and realized what a great girl she is. They played in the late afternoon for two hours. Ellie pitched to Michael as Manny was batting. She was quite the pitcher, as she struck out Manny on three pitches. Mike Lupica's vision and thought process about the kids playing a little game was fantastic. When I was reading the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, I was so occupied & interested by the relationship the kids showed. I don't think that a nonfiction story would have drawn me in like that.