

Name _____

Date _____

My Summer Reading Journal

The book that I've selected for you to read this summer is:

Fish In A Tree

By

Lynda Mullaly Hunt

As you sit back and enjoy this great read, complete all the required activities. When answering short response questions remember to echo the question, answer completely, and support each answer with text evidence and the page number where the support was found.

According to her dedication page, Lynda Mullaly Hunt wrote this book:

*"For teachers . . .
who see the child before the student,
who remind us that we all have
special gifts to offer the world,
who foster the importance of standing out
rather than fitting in.*

*And for kids . . .
Who find their grit to conquer life's challenges -
No matter what those challenges may be.*

You are heroes."

I hope you enjoy this novel as much as I did. I look forward to meeting you in September to learn about the special gifts you have to offer the world, what makes you a unique person, and the personal challenges you are working on to conquer!

Have a great summer! Happy reading,

Mrs. Molter

The Characters

There are several important characters in this book. Each character is listed below. Write **two traits for each character** and **provide details from the text that support those traits**. Try not to repeat any traits.

1. Ally: _____

2. Travis: _____

3. Keisha: _____

4. Shay: _____

5. Jessica: _____

6. Albert: _____

7. Oliver: _____

8. Mr. Daniels: _____

Our September Bulletin Board

Help complete our bulletin board for September by completing the following activity for your fish which will hang from our tree.

Fish Activity:

You have received one fish outline to be cut out. When you're cutting out the fish **don't cut along the dotted line** because that is where you will make a fold so that your fish can open and close.

Design both sides of the fish in your unique way, "standing out rather than fitting in." You may use any material to do this.

Then, inside your fish describe the special gifts you have to offer the world (talents and specific character traits). You can do this on the back of one fish. On the back of the other fish, share some of the challenges in your life that you are working on to conquer.

Bring your completed fish during the first week of school so it can be a . . .

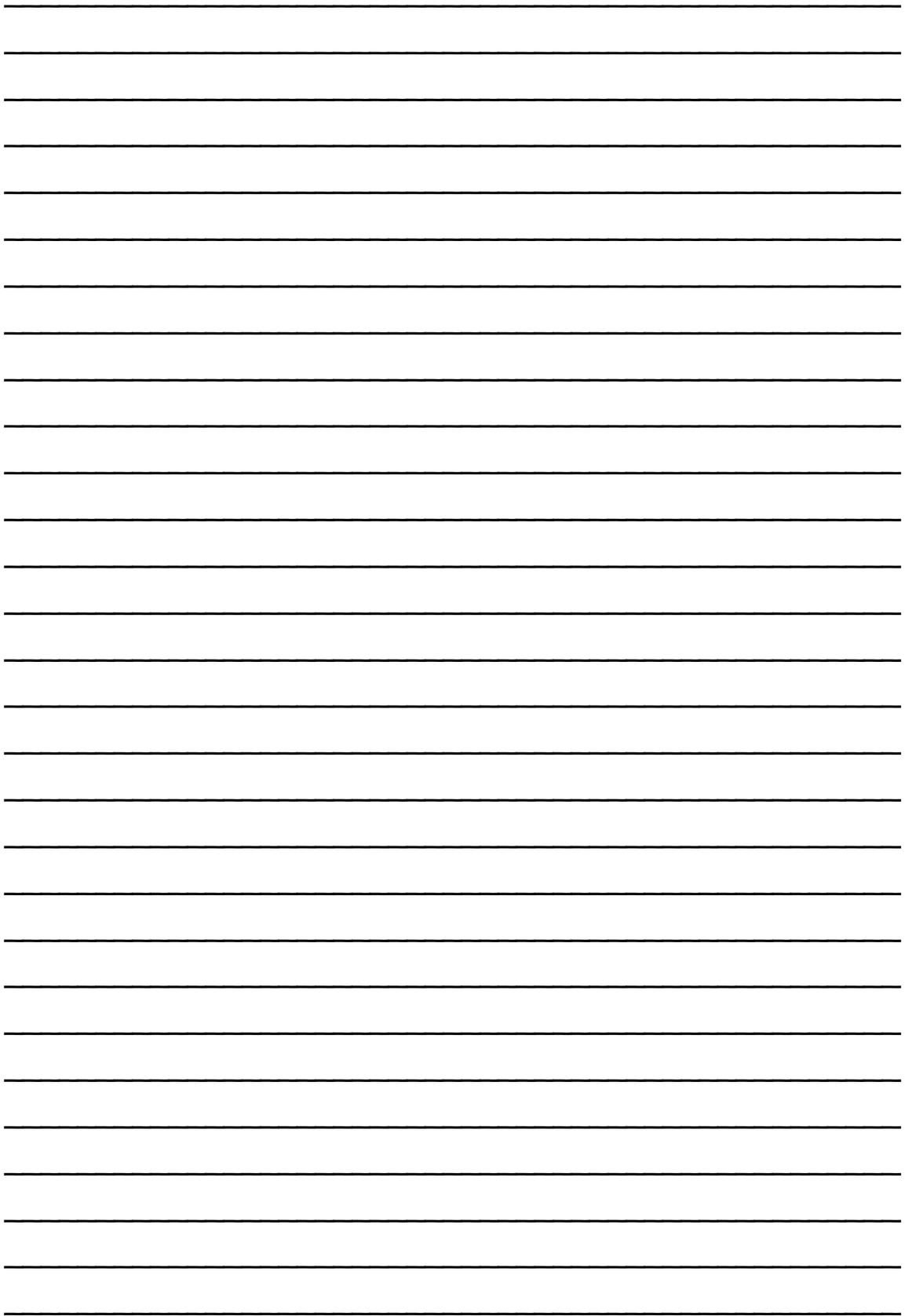
Fish In A Tree!

Fish In A Tree

I have divided the novel into three parts. For each part there are three short response questions or activities for you to choose from. Choose one from each part to complete on the lined pages.

Part One: pages 1 - 91

1. At the beginning of the story, we learn that school is painful for Ally and that she doesn't feel as if she fits in with her peers. When thinking about her class, she says, "Maybe they think I can't hear their words: *Freak. Dumb. Loser.*"
Activity: Make a word collection list of powerful words or phrases that describe the way Ally sees herself and the way others perceive her.
2. Ally escapes into mind movies as a relief from the situations she experiences. Examine these mind movies as you read and create a chart for them.
 - Write a **summary** for each mind movie.
 - Explain the **cause** of each mind movie.
 - What does each mind movie **reveal** about Ally?
 - Some mind movies can be found on pages 68, 74, 159, 191, 200, and 267.
3. Complete the following:
 - What is the significance of the mystery object lesson?
 - In what ways does this experience empower Ally?
 - Locate words and phrases in chapter 14, *Boxed In and Boxed Out*, which highlight how this experience is a turning point for Ally.



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Part Two: pages 92 - 175

Choose one to complete:

1. Reread pages 116 - 120. How does Ally relate to the fallen butterfly? How does the symbolism of butterflies apply to Ally and the other characters in the book? Draw an illustration of Ally with the butterflies.
2. On page 157, Mr. Daniels calls Ally brave.
 - How is Ally brave?
 - What other character traits does Ally display?
 - How does interacting with Mr. Daniels bring out these characteristics?
3. On page 159, Mr. Daniels inspires Ally with a quote sometimes attributed to Albert Einstein:

"Everyone is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life thinking it's stupid."

- How is this quote related to Ally and her experiences?
- This moment in the book is a turning point for Ally. Explain this.
- What is the meaning and purpose of this quote?

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Part Three: pages 176 - 267

Choose one to complete:

1. Reread pages 180 - 184. In this excerpt, Albert describes one of the colorful posters on his wall as "the birth of a star."(p. 180)
 - How does the friendship bond among Ally, Albert, and Keisha inspire each of them to believe in themselves?
 - In what ways do they accept each other for who they are?
 - How is it significant that Ally confides in them on pages 182 - 183?
 - How do your friends inspire you to believe in yourself?

2. On page 265, Ally says that her brother, Travis, has always believed in her and stood by her.
 - How does Ally show Travis that she believes in him?

3. Now that you've completed the book, put yourself into Ally's or Travis' shoes and respond to these questions:
 - What do I want to tell Grandpa about?
 - What are my accomplishments?
 - What are my struggles and how did I overcome them?
 - Who are the people who have inspired me?
 - What do I want to thank Grandpa for?