

# GETTING STARTED

Student Guide Walkthrough

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# STUDENT ACCOUNT WALKTHROUGH

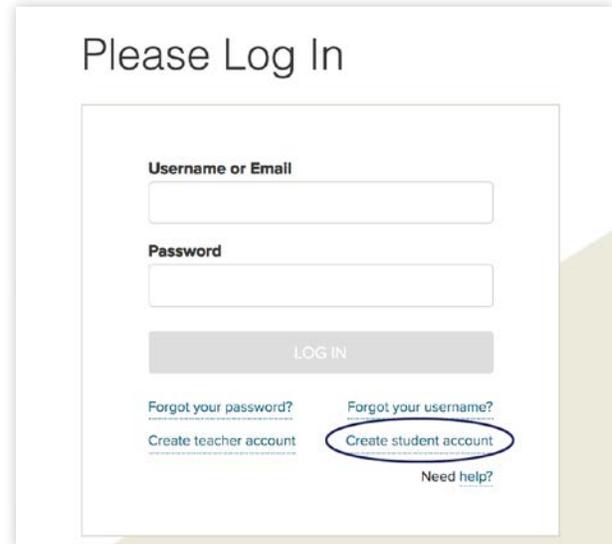
Welcome to Texas StudySync! This user guide will help you set up your account and get you familiar with all of the tools and features in your StudySync classes.



# CREATE A STUDENT ACCOUNT

## Create a New Account

- 1 On the McGraw-Hill Education **Log In** page at <https://my.mheducation.com>, select the **create a student account** link.
- 2 On the **Create Student Account** page that appears, enter the 8-character code you received from your teacher in the **Class Code** field.
- 3 Enter your **First** and **Last Name**.
- 4 Create a **Username**.
- 5 Create a Password.  
Your password must contain:
  - 8-20 characters without spaces
  - At least one uppercase and one lowercase letter
  - At least one number
- 6 Enter your password again in the next field to confirm.
- 7 Select **Create Account**. You will see the Success Page when your account is created.



The image shows a 'Please Log In' form with the following elements:

- Username or Email** input field
- Password** input field
- LOG IN** button
- Links: [Forgot your password?](#), [Forgot your username?](#), [Create teacher account](#), [Create student account](#) (circled in red), and [Need help?](#)



The image shows a 'Create Student Account' form with the following elements:

- Links: [Already have an account? Sign in](#) and [Need to create a teacher account? Click here](#)
- 1 Class Code** section with a sub-label: *Please ask your teacher for this eight-character code* and an input field.



The image shows a '2 My Information' form with the following elements:

- First Name** input field
- Last Name** input field
- Username** input field
- Password** input field
- Confirm Password** input field

Create Account >

Select **Log in** to log in to your new account at <https://my.mheducation.com>. If your account has already been created, you will see this message:

Based on your name and class code, it looks like you already have an account. Please [log in](#) instead of creating a new account.

Create Account

Follow the link to log in to your account. If you have forgotten your password, go to your teacher.

Your teacher can either reset your password, or create a temporary one that you can change after you log in.

## JOIN A CLASS

When you log in, you will first see the **My Classes** page where you access all your available classes.

- 1 If you have additional classes to add, select the **Join a Class** button.
- 2 Your teacher will have provided an 8 or 12-character code to join the class. Enter the code into the field. (Do not include hyphens).
- 3 Select the **Submit** button to add the class.
  - End Date
  - If you wish to enable the Simplified Student Experience (typically used for K-5 students) for your class, check the box under Settings.

### Enter a New Code

xxxx1234xxxx

#### Guidelines for Entering a Code:

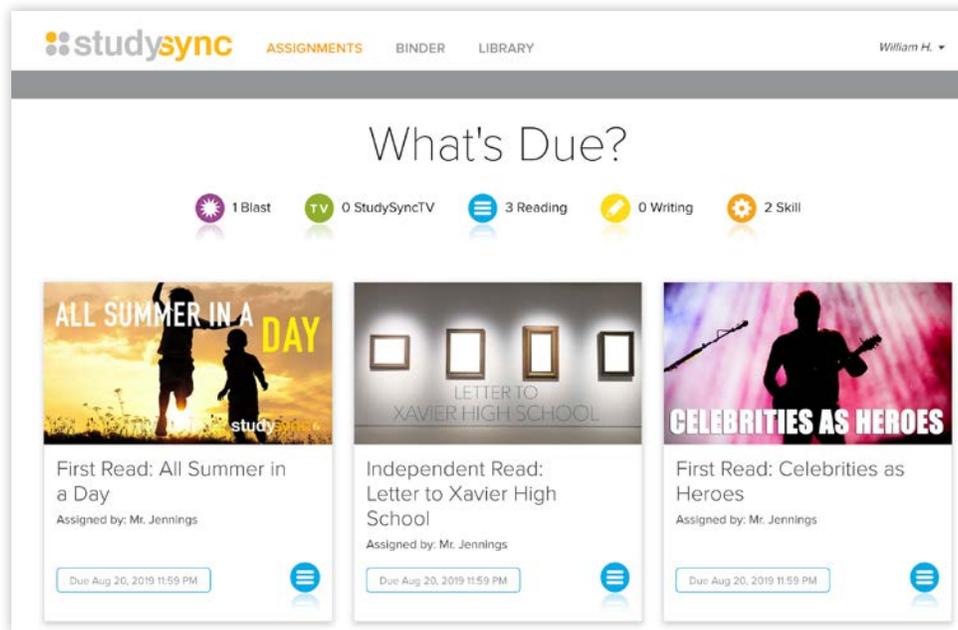
- Enter codes without hyphens
- Only enter codes that contain 8 or 12 characters.
- Only enter codes that contain numbers and letters, no special characters, such as # \$ % &

Cancel

Submit

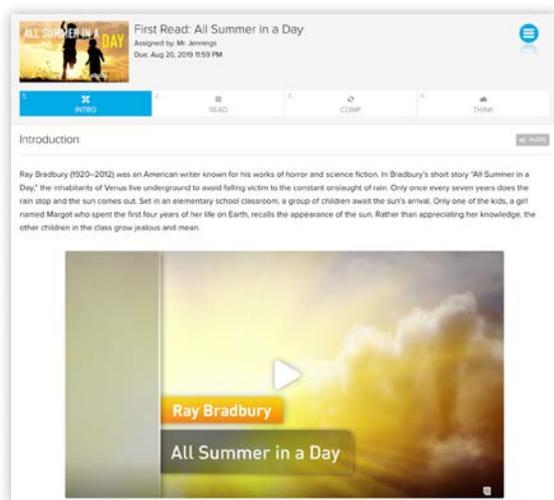
# VIEWING AND COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS

Upon entering the program it will open in the Texas StudySync Assignments tab. All of the different Assignments that you need to complete will be displayed. Information about the Assignment, including which teacher assigned it and the due date appear at the bottom of each Assignment box.



## Intro

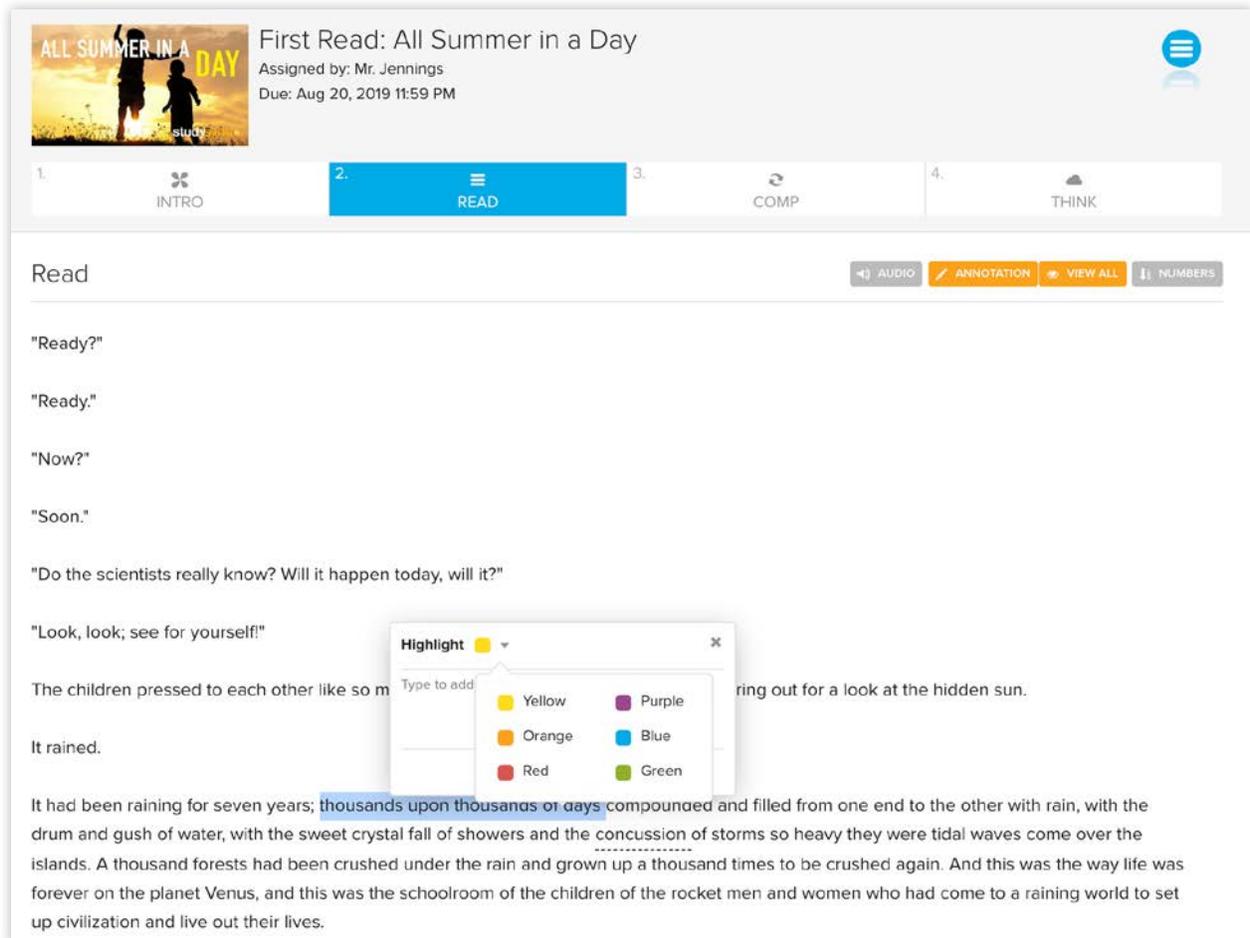
Click on an **Assignment** to get started. For this example, we will view a First Read Assignment. Click the **Preview** video.



The Preview video is a movie trailer for the text. Watch it to get some additional background information about the text and/or time period.

## Read

After you watch the Preview video, click the **Read** tab. This is where you will read and annotate an excerpt from the text.



The screenshot shows the 'Read' tab selected in a navigation bar with four sections: 1. INTRO, 2. READ (highlighted in blue), 3. COMP, and 4. THINK. Below the navigation bar, the text of the assignment is displayed. A 'Highlight' menu is open over the text, showing color options: Yellow, Orange, Red, Purple, Blue, and Green. The text includes several lines of dialogue and a paragraph of descriptive text.

Assignment: **First Read: All Summer in a Day**  
Assigned by: Mr. Jennings  
Due: Aug 20, 2019 11:59 PM

1. INTRO    2. READ    3. COMP    4. THINK

Read    AUDIO    ANNOTATION    VIEW ALL    NUMBERS

"Ready?"

"Ready."

"Now?"

"Soon."

"Do the scientists really know? Will it happen today, will it?"

"Look, look; see for yourself!"

The children pressed to each other like so many sardines, peering out for a look at the hidden sun.

It rained.

It had been raining for seven years; thousands upon thousands of days compounded and filled from one end to the other with rain, with the drum and gush of water, with the sweet crystal fall of showers and the concussion of storms so heavy they were tidal waves come over the islands. A thousand forests had been crushed under the rain and grown up a thousand times to be crushed again. And this was the way life was forever on the planet Venus, and this was the schoolroom of the children of the rocket men and women who had come to a raining world to set up civilization and live out their lives.

You can listen to the excerpt read aloud by clicking on the Audio button. You can also track your thinking by including notes and highlights. When you select a part of the text, you will be prompted to add an annotation.

## Think

The **Think** section of an Assignment asks you to respond to short answer questions.

The screenshot shows the 'Think' section of an assignment. At the top, there is a header with a book cover for 'All Summer in a Day' and the title 'First Read: All Summer in a Day'. Below the title, it says 'Assigned by: Mr. Jennings' and 'Due: Aug 20, 2019 11:59 PM'. A navigation bar below the header has four tabs: '1. INTRO', '2. READ', '3. COMP', and '4. THINK' (which is highlighted in blue). To the right of the navigation bar is a 'SPLIT SCREEN MODE' button. Below the navigation bar, the word 'Think' is displayed. Underneath, 'Question 2' is shown with a progress indicator of five circles, the second of which is filled. The question text reads: 'Based on the text, how has life on Venus affected Margot? Cite specific evidence from the text to support your answer.' Below the question is a text input area with a toolbar containing 'B', 'I', and 'U' icons. At the bottom right of the input area, it says 'Characters: 0, Words: 0'. A 'Save and continue' button is located at the bottom right of the entire section.

Click the **Split Screen Mode** button to view the questions side-by-side with the text excerpt and your annotations.

## StudySyncTV

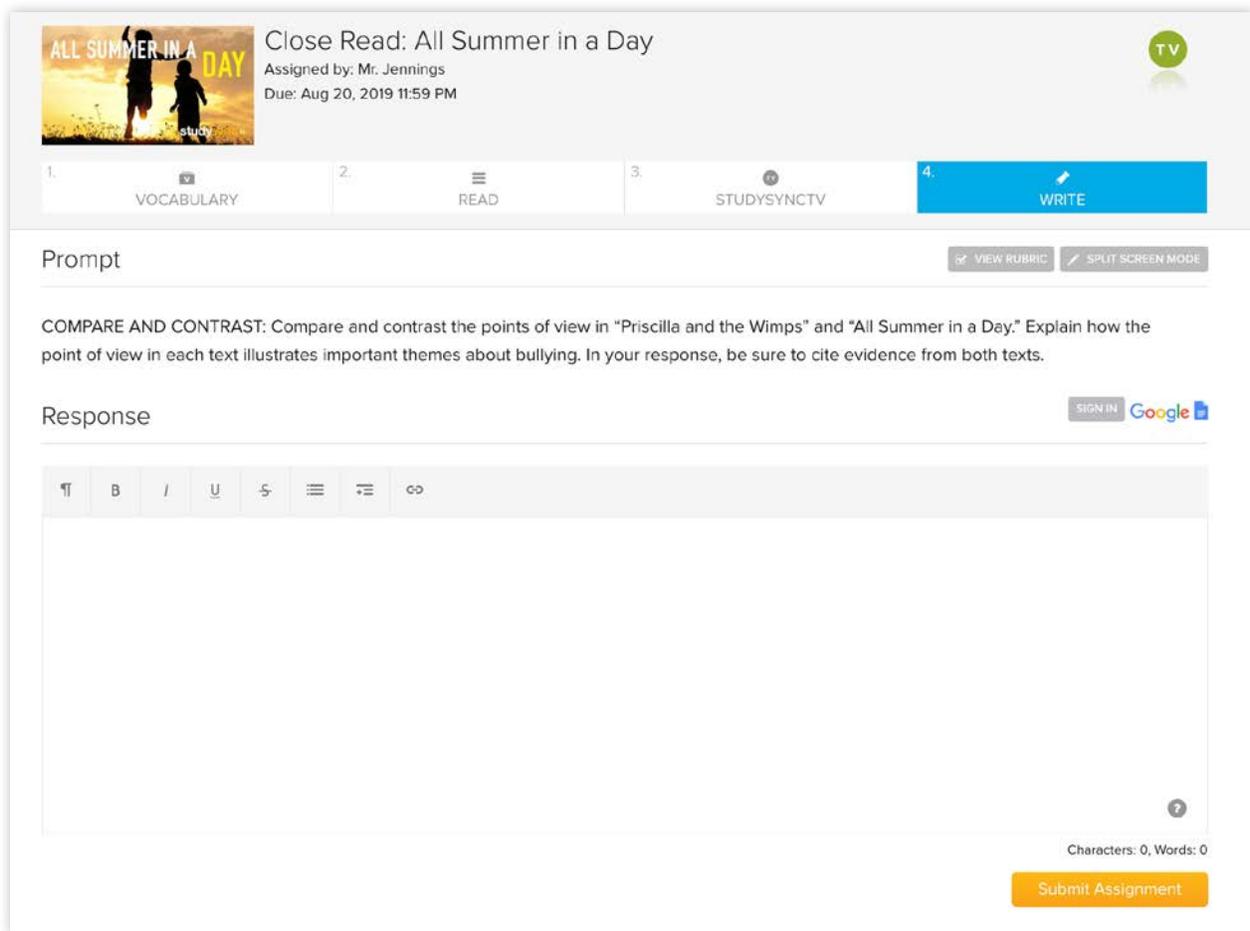
**Close Read Assignments** may include a **StudySyncTV** tab to view a StudySync®TV episode. These videos provide a model discussion between students about the text and prompt.

The screenshot displays the StudySyncTV interface. At the top, there is a header for the assignment: "Close Read: All Summer in a Day" assigned by Mr. Jennings, due on August 20, 2019, at 11:59 PM. Below the header is a navigation bar with four tabs: "1. VOCABULARY", "2. READ", "3. STUDYSYNCTV" (which is highlighted in blue), and "4. WRITE". The main content area is titled "StudySyncTV" and features a video player. The video shows two students, a girl and a boy, sitting at a desk in a library or classroom setting, engaged in a discussion. The video player includes a progress bar, a play button, and a closed captioning (CC) icon. The current time is 05:29, and the total duration is 06:11. The video content shows the text: "She was the only kid her age who remembered the sun."

Use the **closed captioning** tool at the bottom right of the video to help you follow along with the students' discussion

## Write

**Close Read Assignments** also include a **Write** tab. This is where you respond to a writing prompt about the excerpt. Your work will save automatically and once you submit your response, your teacher and your peers will be able to read and review your work.



**Close Read: All Summer in a Day**  
Assigned by: Mr. Jennings  
Due: Aug 20, 2019 11:59 PM

1. VOCABULARY 2. READ 3. STUDYSYNCTV 4. **WRITE**

**Prompt** [VIEW RUBRIC](#) [SPLIT SCREEN MODE](#)

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST:** Compare and contrast the points of view in "Priscilla and the Wimps" and "All Summer in a Day." Explain how the point of view in each text illustrates important themes about bullying. In your response, be sure to cite evidence from both texts.

**Response** [SIGN IN](#) 

Characters: 0, Words: 0

[Submit Assignment](#)

Click **View Rubric** to view the rubric your teacher and peers will be using to evaluate your response.

# REVIEW MODE

Once you complete an Assignment, you can review your peers' responses. These peer reviews are anonymous for all students, but are not anonymous to your teacher. On the Assignments tab, you can tell which Assignments are in **Review Mode** by looking for the colored bar at the bottom of the assignment.

The image shows three assignment cards from Studysync. Each card has a book cover at the top, followed by the title 'Close Read: [Book Title]'. Below the title, it lists the assigner (Diana), the number of reviews completed (0), the number of reviews available (1, 5, and 5 respectively), and the due date (June 11th, 19th, and 22th, 2019). A green 'TV' icon is present on each card. At the bottom of each card is a green bar with the text 'REVIEW MODE'.

Click on **Review Mode** at the bottom of an Assignment to view your response, with teacher and peer ratings, and to review your peers.

## My Response

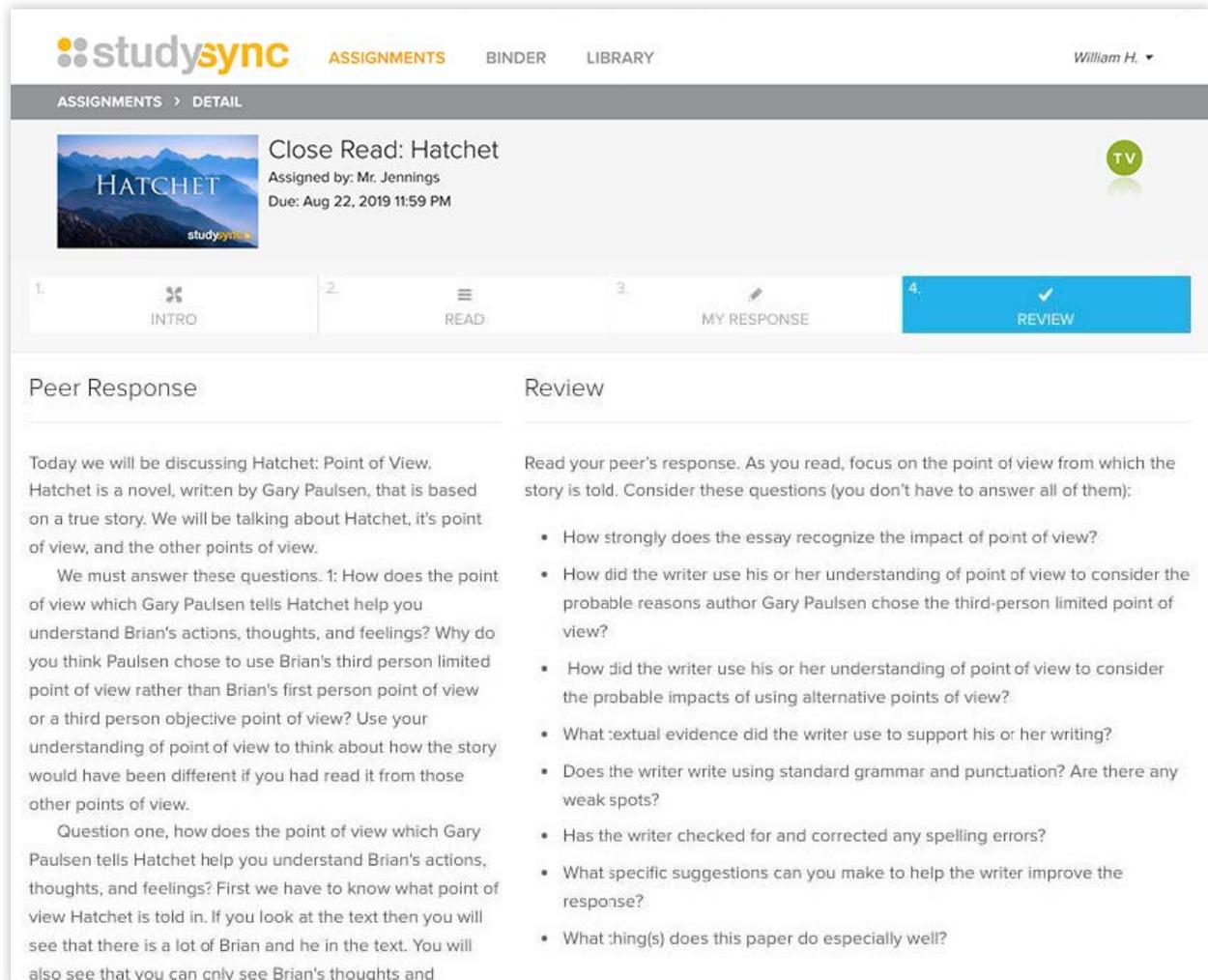
Click the **My Response** tab to view the Prompt, Your Response, a Review Summary, Peer Reviews, and Teacher Reviews. Under Review Summary you can see your Average Ratings for each part of the Grading Rubric.

You can toggle between Peer Reviews and Teacher Reviews to see ratings and feedback.

The screenshot shows the 'My Response' page for the 'Close Read: Hatchet' assignment. It includes a navigation bar with tabs for 'PROMPT', 'READ', 'MY RESPONSE', and 'REVIEW'. The 'MY RESPONSE' tab is active. The page is divided into several sections: 'Prompt' with a question about point of view, 'Review Summary' showing a total of 2 peer reviews and an average rating of 9/15, 'Your Response' with a text area containing a student's answer, and 'Peer Reviews' and 'Teacher Review' sections. The 'Review Summary' and 'Peer Reviews' sections include a grading rubric with categories like 'Statement of Purpose/Focus', 'Elaboration of Evidence', and 'Language and Conventions', each with a progress indicator (green squares).

## Review

Click the **Review** tab to rate your Peer's Response. View the Review section for prompt information and guidelines on giving written feedback. Then, rate your peers using the rubric provided.



The screenshot shows the Studysync interface for an assignment titled "Close Read: Hatchet". The assignment is assigned by Mr. Jennings and is due on August 22, 2019, at 11:59 PM. The interface includes a navigation bar with tabs for "INTRO", "READ", "MY RESPONSE", and "REVIEW". The "REVIEW" tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections: "Peer Response" and "Review".

**Peer Response**

Today we will be discussing Hatchet: Point of View. Hatchet is a novel, written by Gary Paulsen, that is based on a true story. We will be talking about Hatchet, its point of view, and the other points of view.

We must answer these questions: 1: How does the point of view which Gary Paulsen tells Hatchet help you understand Brian's actions, thoughts, and feelings? Why do you think Paulsen chose to use Brian's third person limited point of view rather than Brian's first person point of view or a third person objective point of view? Use your understanding of point of view to think about how the story would have been different if you had read it from those other points of view.

Question one, how does the point of view which Gary Paulsen tells Hatchet help you understand Brian's actions, thoughts, and feelings? First we have to know what point of view Hatchet is told in. If you look at the text then you will see that there is a lot of Brian and he in the text. You will also see that you can only see Brian's thoughts and

**Review**

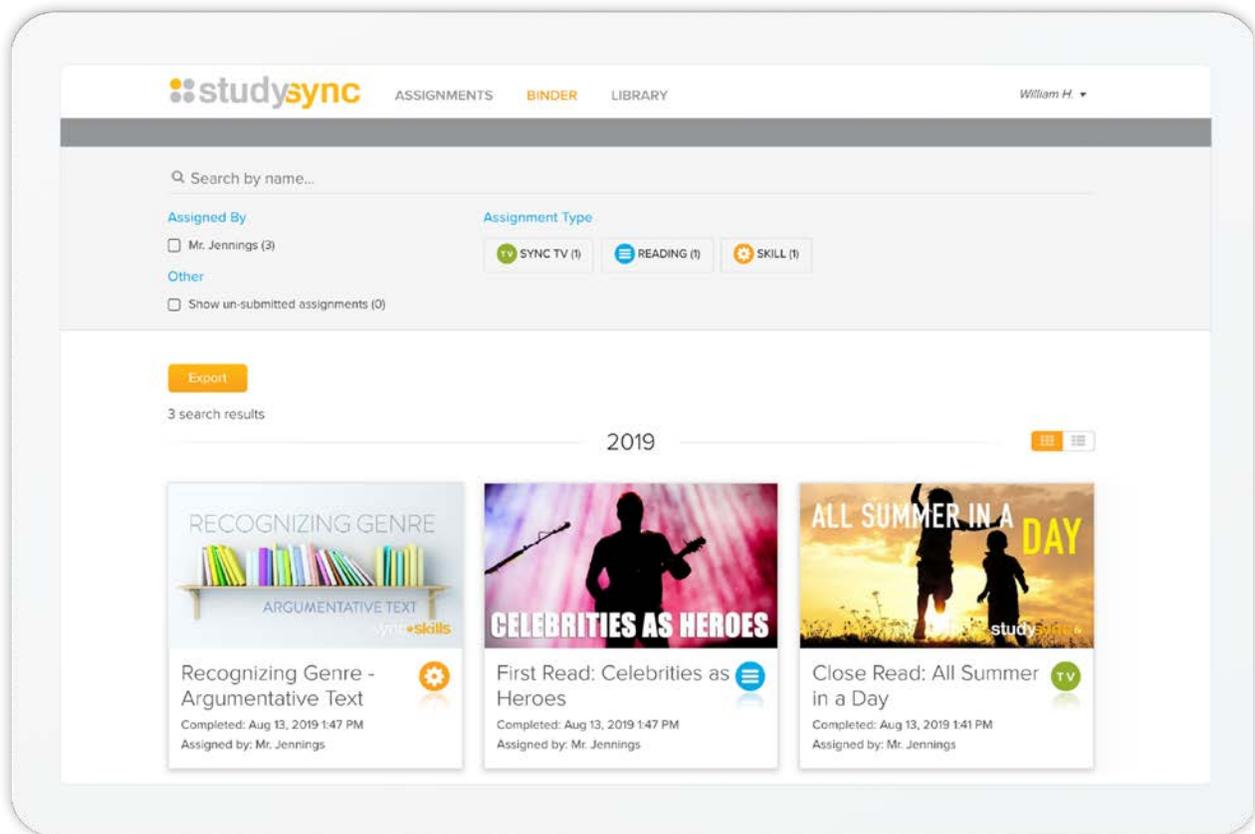
Read your peer's response. As you read, focus on the point of view from which the story is told. Consider these questions (you don't have to answer all of them):

- How strongly does the essay recognize the impact of point of view?
- How did the writer use his or her understanding of point of view to consider the probable reasons author Gary Paulsen chose the third-person limited point of view?
- How did the writer use his or her understanding of point of view to consider the probable impacts of using alternative points of view?
- What textual evidence did the writer use to support his or her writing?
- Does the writer write using standard grammar and punctuation? Are there any weak spots?
- Has the writer checked for and corrected any spelling errors?
- What specific suggestions can you make to help the writer improve the response?
- What thing(s) does this paper do especially well?

After you Submit a peer review, another one will automatically appear until you have completed the number of reviews that your teacher has assigned.

# BINDER

All of your completed Assignments and reviews are held in your **Binder**. Go here to see the reviews you receive from your teacher and your peers for an Assignment that is completed.



You can view completed assignments for every year that you have had a StudySync account!

## Teacher and Peer Reviews

In the **Teacher Review** section, you can see the rating you received from your teacher, as well as notes and annotations on particular sections of your response. Click on any highlighted section with an underline to view your teacher’s comments.

In the **Peer Reviews** section, you can see notes and scores you’ve received from each of your peers.

The screenshot displays the 'Your Response' section on the left and the 'Peer Reviews' and 'Teacher Review' sections on the right.

**Your Response:** The text discusses fear and suspense in a story, mentioning 'Mrs. Stevenson' and 'the phone call'. Several phrases are highlighted in blue, and a comment bubble is visible below the text.

**Peer Reviews:** A review from 'By: Anonymous' on Nov 17, 2017, is shown. It includes five criteria with corresponding star ratings:

- Ideas expressed were clear and focused: 4 stars
- Opinions were logical and supported: 4 stars
- Structure was well organized: 4 stars
- Word choices were compelling and appropriate: 4 stars
- Grammar and spelling were accurate: 4 stars

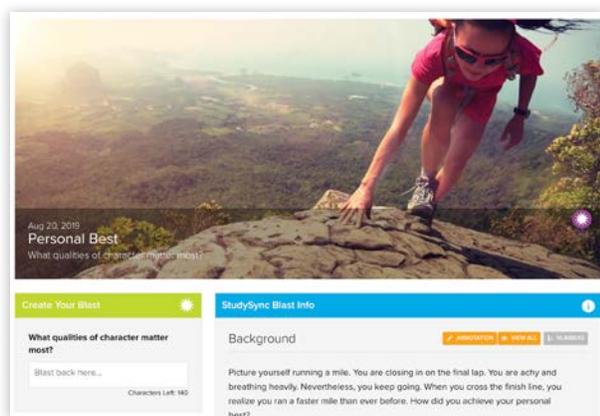
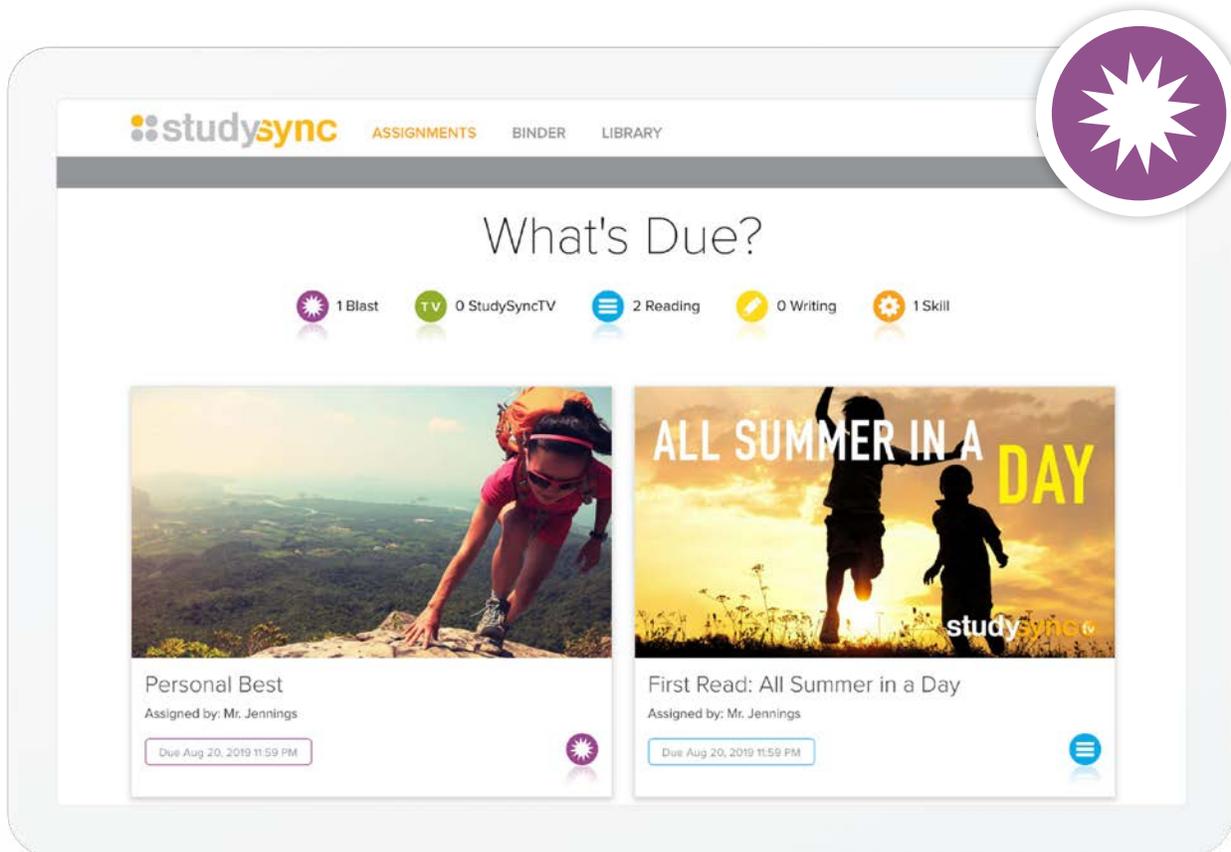
**Teacher Review:** A review from 'By: CAStudySync California' on December 01, 2016, is shown. It includes the same five criteria with star ratings:

- Claim/Focus: 4 stars
- Elaboration of Evidence: 4 stars
- Language and Conventions: 4 stars
- Rating: 10 / 15
- Comment: 'Great work on this assignment! We will discuss how you can better your Language and Conventions in class.'

**RATING: 16 / 25**

# COMPLETING A BLAST

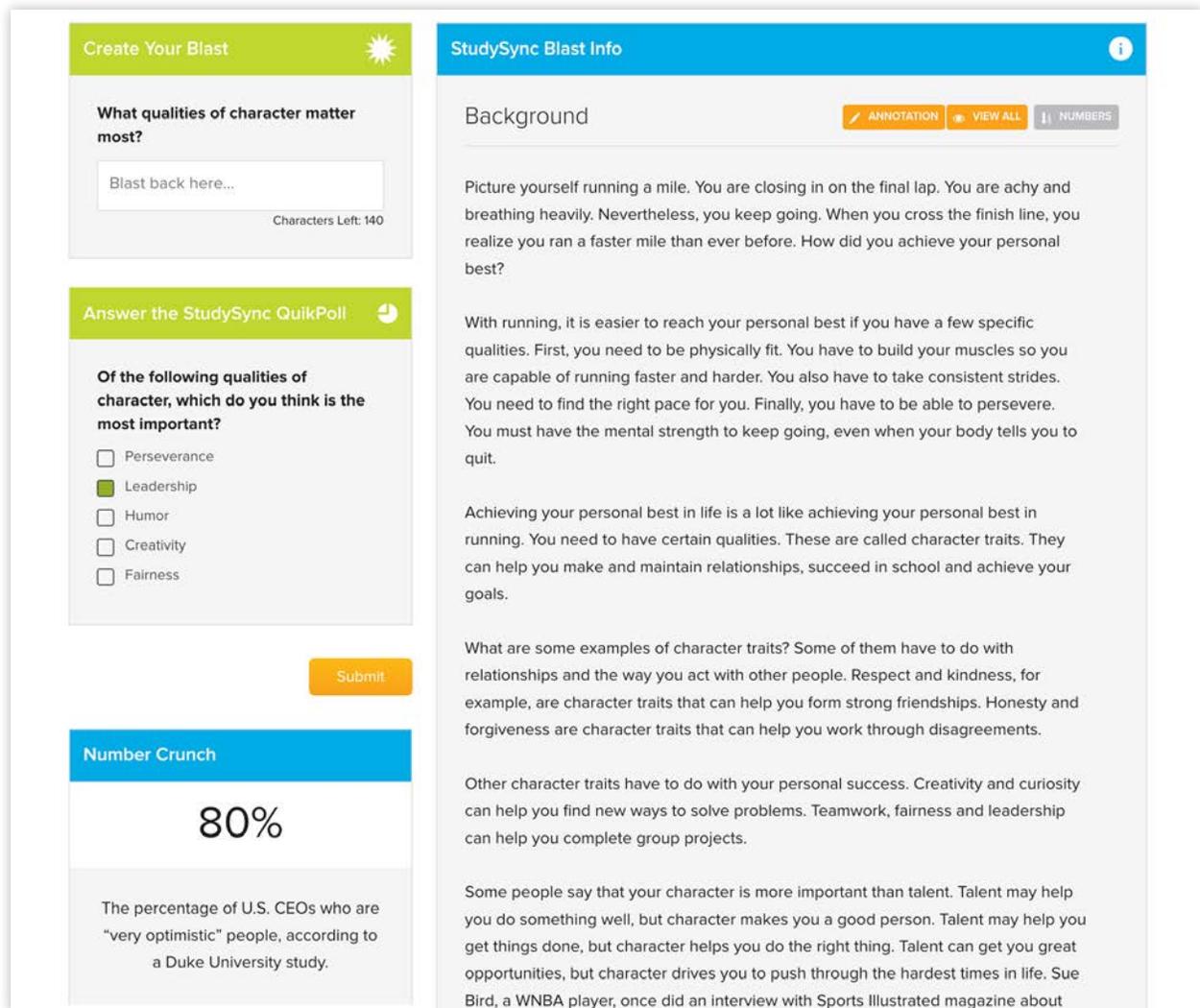
In your Assignments tab, locate an Assignment with the purple Blast icon. These are short reading, research, and writing Assignments based on topics of interest and current events.



First, read the Blast title and answer the **driving question**. This answer will mimic a Tweet in that you will answer in either 140 or 280 characters.

Use the **Annotation** feature to track your thinking as you read the Background information. Just like with the text excerpts, you will be able to highlight and leave notes.

## Blast Assignment Sections



The screenshot displays the StudySync Blast assignment interface, which is divided into several sections:

- Create Your Blast:** A section with a green header and a sun icon. It asks, "What qualities of character matter most?" and features a text input field with the placeholder "Blast back here..." and a character count of "Characters Left: 140".
- Answer the StudySync QuikPoll:** A section with a green header and a pie chart icon. It asks, "Of the following qualities of character, which do you think is the most important?" and lists five options: Perseverance, Leadership (selected), Humor, Creativity, and Fairness. A "Submit" button is located below the list.
- Number Crunch:** A section with a blue header. It displays "80%" in large text and states, "The percentage of U.S. CEOs who are 'very optimistic' people, according to a Duke University study."
- StudySync Blast Info:** A section with a blue header and an information icon. It is titled "Background" and includes three sub-sections:
  - Background:** A paragraph about running a mile and achieving a personal best, with buttons for "ANNOTATION", "VIEW ALL", and "NUMBERS".
  - With running, it is easier to reach your personal best if you have a few specific qualities...** A paragraph discussing physical fitness, consistent strides, finding the right pace, and mental strength.
  - Achieving your personal best in life is a lot like achieving your personal best in running...** A paragraph explaining that character traits like respect, kindness, honesty, and forgiveness help in relationships and goal achievement.
  - What are some examples of character traits?** A paragraph listing traits like respect, kindness, honesty, and forgiveness.
  - Other character traits have to do with your personal success...** A paragraph discussing how creativity, curiosity, teamwork, fairness, and leadership aid in group projects.
  - Some people say that your character is more important than talent...** A paragraph comparing talent and character, noting that character helps in pushing through difficult times.

- 1 **Background:** Learn more information about the topic.
- 2 **Research Links:** Explore for further information, if available,
- 3 **Number Crunch:** Discover an interesting fact about the topic.
- 4 **Blast Response:** Complete this section for your assignment.
- 5 **QuikPoll:** Take the poll to make your vote count.

## Blast Assignment Results

Once you complete a Blast Assignment, you will be able to review and rate your peers' Blast responses. You will also be able to see the ratings your response receives, as well as the top-rated Blast responses. Check back often to see the top responses and QuikPoll results!

**Top 10 Blasts** ↻

**Rated By Peers. How do you compare?**

<b>01</b>	Anonymous ▾	<b>5.000</b>
We need to preserve water when it comes- maybe even installing rain barrels in homes and limit growth.		
<b>02</b>	Anonymous ▾	<b>4.333</b>
We all need to learn to conserve water more and to plant crops which are needed most by everyone.		
<b>03</b>	Anonymous ▾	<b>4.167</b>
Use water sparingly and have people pay fines if they use too		

**Rate your peers** ☀

**The Blast**  
It is important that we learn to not waste water.

**Your Rating**  
Select a star that reflects the insight of the Blast, whether you agree with it or not.

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

**Add an optional note**

Try to be more detailed next time!

Submit

**Your Blast**

We all need to learn to conserve water more and to plant crops which are needed most by everyone.

**Your Average Rating** ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

**4.200**

**Teacher Rating** ♥

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

How might we conserve water "more"?

**Ratings Received** ♥

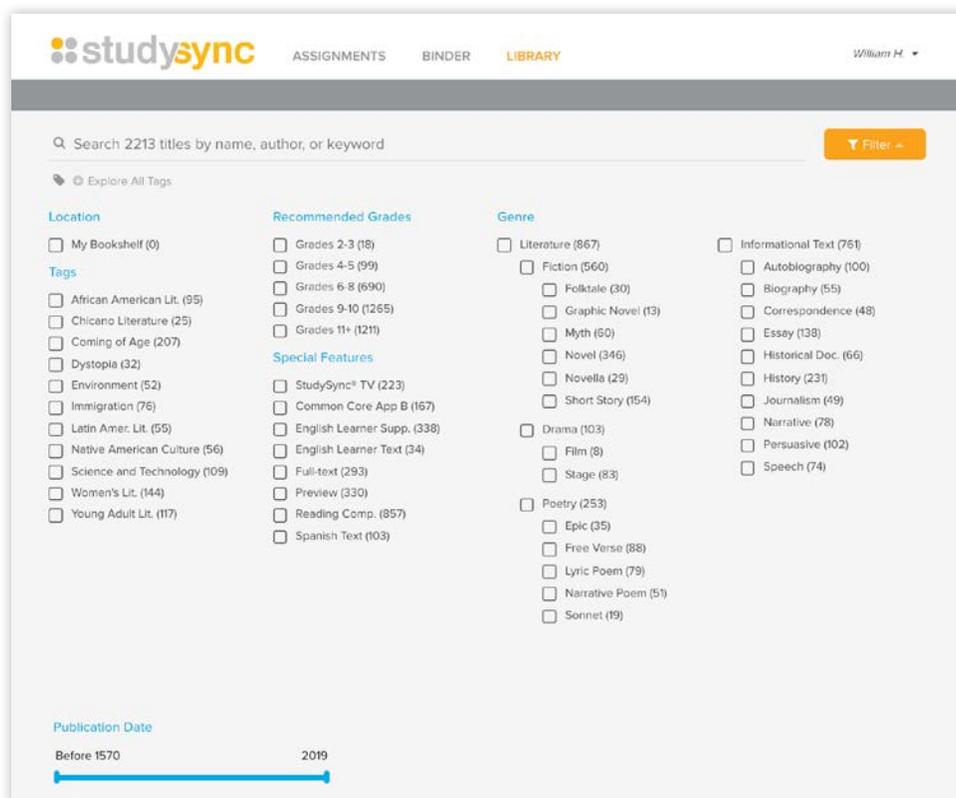
Anonymous	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Anonymous	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Anonymous	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Anonymous	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Anonymous	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

# LIBRARY

The Library includes all of the texts in Texas StudySync. You can search the Library using the search box or Show Filters button. You can also save titles to your Bookshelf so that they are easy to locate later.



Use **filters** to search the Library by Subject, Theme, Publication Date, Genre, and other Texas StudySync features.





**BRING LITERATURE TO LIFE**

[studysync.com](https://studysync.com)

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