

## Second Trimester Book Report III

Summerland by Michael Chabon (524 pages)

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I read “Summerland” by Michael Chabon. This book is most definitely a Fantasy. It is a Fantasy because it takes place in other worlds and in ours, also because it has fantastical creatures in it such as Giants and Fairies.

In the book there are four worlds: Middling (ours), Summerland, Winterland, and an unknown world. All of the worlds are branches on the Tree of Life. Mr. Wood, who also created an evil Coyote, created the Tree. The evil Coyote has succeeded to separate the unknown world from the rest. Some people who inhabit the four worlds have a special power of jumping from branch to branch on the Tree and going to other worlds. They are called Shadow Tails. The book starts when a boy named Ethan and his friend, Jennifer T., find a way into Summerland. There they meet a native Summerlander, a Ferisher, and become friends. They learn of the Tree and of Coyote. When they get home they find Ethan’s dad (an inventor) missing with his miracle material Pico-Fiber. They go back to Summerland and the Ferisher knows the kidnapping of Ethan’s dad is Coyote’s doing. So, they set off to find Coyote. On the way, they make more friends and form the Summerland traveling All Star Shadow Tails. They are a baseball team called the Shadows Tails because they go from world to world playing

games. While traveling, Ethan finds a splinter of the Tree and turns it into a baseball bat. It is the most powerful bat in the world. He names it Splinter. But there is a problem. There is a knot on the bat's handle and it pains Ethan horribly when he swings. They finally get to Diamond Green, the center of the Tree, where they find Coyote. Coyote has gotten Ethan's dad to make a hose and nozzle to put poison into the Murmury well, which waters the Tree. When the tree dies, Coyote will be able to create a new world that he will rule. So, Ethan challenged Coyote to a game of baseball. If Coyote wins he gets to destroy the tree. If Ethan wins, Coyote must stop and Ethan gets his dad back. Coyote, the person who invented baseball, thinks that destroying the Tree and beating someone in a baseball game is a great idea. To make sure Coyote doesn't lie, Ethan's friend, a Sasquatch, will hold the hose and nozzle. So they play, and it comes down to the ninth inning, two outs, and two strikes. Ethan decides not to pay attention to the knot and then he hits a giant home run that goes so far they hear a crack. Then someone yells "Coyote" (his mom) and Coyote yells "Run!" . He says "You win, I will stop", as he was running. So, then Ethan, his dad, and Jennifer T. go back to Middling after they destroy the hose, and all is well.

I really liked this book because of its creativity and imaginative creatures. I also liked how the author added so many Native American folk tales to the book. (I know this because I read the back of the book and it names the folk tales the book used.) One thing that I disliked about this book is it doesn't explain a lot of things. Like, what if Coyote goes and finds another way to destroy the tree? I found that this author's writing really helps me visualize, however.

A message I found was that something very small can cause a world of trouble.

For example, the small knot on splinter almost caused a few worlds a lot of trouble.