

SUMMER 2011 GRADE 8 READING ASSIGNMENT

Students need to read **one** of the approved books on the eighth grade summer reading list and do **all five** of the assignments listed below by August 26, 2011. Books read for summer reading will **not** count for accelerated reading points.

1. **THEME:** In a **paragraph** of at least 10 sentences, students need to explain the author's purpose in writing this book. What comment about life is the author trying to share with us? By what happens to the main character and how the story ends, what is the message the author is trying to communicate about society? Be sure to support your point of view by mentioning specific things that happen to the main character.

2. **TIMELINE:** Set up a **timeline** to show when the story begins (time of the day, time of the year, time of the century, etc. if they are mentioned; and important events along the way, and when it ends). Chart at least twelve important events in the plot along this timeline; include time chronology (passing hours, days, weeks, months, years, etc.)

3. **PLOT ANALYSIS:** Explain the following in **complete sentences**.
 1. The beginning situation (How does the story begin?)
 2. What incidents happen to the main character to introduce the conflict, the opposing force in the novel?
 3. In the story explain three turning points in the life of the main character. A turning point is a point at which a significant change, a decisive moment, occurs in the main character.
 4. Which of these three is most critical in the life of the main character? Explain why.
 5. Describe how the story would have been different, if at this critical turning point, the main character had made a different choice.

4. **CHARACTER ANALYSIS:** In a **paragraph** of at least 10 sentences

Explain the following about the protagonist (the main character) in the story: How old is he/she? What does he look like? How does he dress? What is his occupation? What interests does he have? What kind of personality does he have? How intelligent is he? What relationships does he have with others? What do others think of him? What motivates him? What are his strengths and weaknesses? How has he been affected by his past? How has he been affected by his relationships with others? How does he change during the course of the story? How is he different at the end than he was at the beginning of the story?

5. **BOOK REVIEW:** In **three good paragraphs** of 5 – 10 good sentences each

Write a letter to the author of the book explaining what you liked about the story and what changes you might suggest to improve the story. Focus on the setting, characters, plot, conflict, and the theme. Be sure to include your reaction to the story, and how it affected you.

SUMMER READING LIST GRADE EIGHT

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

Of Mice And Men by John Steinbeck

Trouble With Lemons by Daniel Hayes

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Summer Of My German Soldier by Bette Greene

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy by Douglas Adams

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Bless The Beasts And The Children by Glendon Swarthout

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

A Tree Grows In Brooklyn by Betty Smith

The Hound Of The Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

A Patch Of Blue by Elizabeth Kata

The Fighting Ground by Avi

The Long Patrol by Brian Jacques

Parzival: The Quest Of The Grael Knight by Katherine Peterson

The Light In The Forest by Conrad Richter

CHOOSE ONE BOOK FROM THE LIST