



Summer Reading: Students Entering 8th Grade

Summer Reading Assignment for 2009-2010 School Year

You need to choose one book from the reading list for the grade you are getting ready to enter. You may, of course, read more than one on the list, but you will need to complete the following assignment on one of the books. The assignment will be turned in to your next year's English teacher during the first or second week of school (to be determined by individual teachers). Students may also choose a book that is not one the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website arbookfind.com, is 150 pages long for students grades 4-5, or is two hundred pages long students grades 6-12.

Reading Response Journal

Writing in response to literature can be a great way for students to organize their thoughts, explore what they think, and even to generate ideas. Writing in journals allows students to capture their ideas and to better understand and relate to work of fiction. For your chosen book, you will be completing reading response journal. Use one page per item or question. Answer the following items/questions about your book:

- Summarize what you just read in three to five paragraphs.
- Create a plot diagram.
- Describe the setting's time and place. Create a new setting that you think would be better for the story and describe it.
- Describe the most important event. Give at least three reasons why you think it is the most important event.
- List at least three problems the characters faced? Which problem was the most life changing? Explain
- List three new vocabulary words from your reading. What can you tell about them from their structure? What can you tell about them from their context?
- Select a quote from your reading that you liked. What made you pick it? How does it make you pause and think?
- What object is important? Draw it. Write an explanation for why you feel it is important.
- Compare what is happening to a character in the book with your own or a friend's life.
- What are some things you do when you don't understand what you're reading?

- Feel free to decorate your pages and to make your journal interesting.
- Then, create a cover for your journal. It needs to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and a picture of a scene from the book (you may either draw it or make a collage using magazine pictures).

Directions: You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer, but, of course, you may read more! You will complete an assignment over the book that you have selected. This assignment will be turned in during the first week of the school year.

***City of the Beasts* – Isabel Allende**

Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold leaves his home and family to join his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter, on an epic voyage of magical realism to a remote and dangerous part of the Amazon.

***The Rag and Bone Shop* – Robert Cormier**

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

***Whirligig* – Paul Fleischman**

Brian travels to the four corners of the U.S. to build a whirligig in memory of a girl he killed while he was driving drunk.

***The Wizard of Earthsea* – Ursula LeGuin**

After pride causes him to unleash a demon, Zed is compelled to chase or escape from the ever-pursuing shadow. *Earthsea Trilogy*.

***Soldier's Heart: A Novel of the Civil War* – Gary Paulsen**

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

***The River Between Us* – Richard Peck**

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.

-Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award

***The Westing Game* – Ellen Raskin**

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

***Stargirl* – Jerry Spinelli**

Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.