

Grade 8 2025 Summer Assignment

1. Summer Reading for all students: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly (Young Readers Edition)

Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading: During the summer, students are expected to read *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. We will be using this novel to launch a discussion of the main themes within the novel when school begins in September. As you read, think about which of the characters in the novel has the most (and least) progressive thoughts.

Grade 8 Hidden Figures Summer Essay Assignment:

Please write a five-paragraph essay and outline in which you explore and analyze one of the themes you have encountered in *Hidden Figures* (e.g. social inequality, racism, civil rights, confidence, education, social progression etc.).

Your essay must include:

An introduction with:

1. A clear hook/lead
 2. The title and author of the text you are discussing
 3. A well formulated thesis statement: the thesis statement must state the theme you wish to present.
- Three Body Paragraphs with:

1. Topic Sentences
2. Explanation and logic
3. Textual evidence in MLA format “.....” (Shetterly 12)
4. Explanation of the evidence
5. Transitional Words
6. Concluding statements

A Conclusion with:

1. A restatement of the thesis in different words
 2. Implications/Observations/Questions
- This essay format should look very familiar to all you. Take this opportunity to think about the text, formulate a clear argument, and utilize strong textual evidence for support.

Grade 8 Secondary Reading Assignment

2. Please write 5 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list below. (6-8 sentences per paragraph). This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

1. Choose one book from the suggested reading list below

2. Please write 5 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list (6-8 sentences per paragraph).

3. This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

An introduction with:

1. A clear topic/leading sentence. title and author of the book. (1st paragraph) 2. A summary of the book. (2 paragraphs)

3. Your opinion/reflection on the book – likes, dislikes, commendations, critiques, and evidence from the book to support your opinion. (Last paragraph)

Students will select one or more other texts from the reading list below:

Fiction:

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus

Elephant Run by Roland Smith

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green Fantasy

The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater

Ender's Game by Orson Scott

Card Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo

The Divergent Series by Veronica Roth

The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

Classics:

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

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

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Non- Fiction:

Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick (there is also an adult version called *In the Heart of the Sea*)

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan (if students enjoyed *The Omnivore's*

Dilemma) *Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long Distance Swimmer* by

Lynne Cox

Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition by Karen

Blumenthal *Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic*

Savant by Daniel Tammet

3. 8th Grade Extra Practice: To prepare you for the High School HSPT Test, which will be administered during your eighth-grade year, please read and complete the following pages in your HSPT book (which has been given to you) 151-189 for Reading and 279-330 for Language Arts. We will go over these in the Fall.