

Grade 8 2026 Summer Assignment

1. Summer Reading for all students: *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading: During the summer, students are expected to read ` by We will be using this novel to launch a discussion of the main themes in the fall.

Grade 8 Hope Was Here 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 *The House on Mango Street* (resilience and hope, chosen family and community, change and adaptation).

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 of 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). We will go over these in the Fall.

Reading: Pages 151-193

Vocabulary: pages 36-44 Directions: Look over the words and place a check mark by any word that you already know.

Language Arts: 279-308 Read and Complete the Exercises

Verbal Skills/Quantitative Skills : None We will go over these in the Fall.