

Grade 8 2020 Summer Reading List

Required Summer Reading for all students:

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

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

Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading

During the summer, students are expected to read *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. 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 *To Kill A Mockingbird* 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 *To Kill A Mockingbird* (e.g. social inequality, the mockingbird, racism, coming of age, bravery, education, morality, courage, etc.).

Please take some time to organize your thoughts and write the outline first. Make sure the outline contains your thesis, main points, and evidence. The outline must be stapled to your essay.

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 analyze and explore.

Three Body Paragraphs with:

1. Topic Sentences
2. Explanation and logic
3. Textual evidence in MLA format “.....” (Lee 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. I look forward to reading your analysis in September!

Grade 8 Secondary Reading Assignment

Please write 3-4 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list (five sentences per paragraph).

This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

An introduction with:

1. A clear topic/leading sentence.
2. The title and author of the book.
3. A brief summary of the book.

One or two supporting paragraphs with:

1. Your opinion/reflection on the book – likes, dislikes, commendations, critiques, etc.
2. Evidence from the book to support your opinion.

A conclusion with:

1. A statement reinforcing your topic sentence from your introduction.
2. Any reflections or conclusions you have made throughout reading the book that you would like to reinforce to your reader.