

Grade 8 2019 Summer Reading List

Required Summer Reading for all students:

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

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

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 *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. We will be using this novel to launch a discussion of the theme of nonconformity as soon as school begins in September. Below, you will find some discussion questions to help deepen your thinking about the novel—students, please discuss the questions with your parents and/or peers.

Tough Questions to Ponder (think about *The Outsiders* as you consider them)

1. Is conformity beneficial?
2. In what ways are loyalty and rivalry connected? Do these traits serve people well?
3. What creates prejudice and what can an individual do to overcome it?
4. How do people gain power?
5. What is family?

Book-specific Questions

1. Which character were you most able to relate to? Why?
2. In what ways does Ponyboy change over the course of the novel?
3. In what ways are you like a Greaser? In what way are you like a Soc?
4. Every book has themes. What are some themes of *The Outsiders*? There are lots!
5. What did you notice about S.E. Hinton's writing style? Did you catch any figurative language? Foreshadowing? Symbolism? Repetition? What did you like/dislike about her craft?

Please write a **five-paragraph** essay **and** outline in which you explore and analyze one of the themes you have encountered in *The Outsiders*.

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 “.....” (Hinton 12)
4. Explanation of the evidence
5. Discourse Markers/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 1-2 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list.