

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2017

Part I: Newspaper Task--Informational / Non-Fiction Component

Read the newspaper in print or online for five days. (The days need not be consecutive.) Print out or clip out an article from each paper. Write and attach a reflection to your article. On the top of your reflection paper please include the title and date of your article followed by your reflection of about 100 words. No more than three articles from the same section (i.e. the sports section) should be used. Reflections may include but are not limited to:

- ❖ additional research on the topic (cite sources)
- ❖ a moral or ethical question and response
- ❖ an argument about a presented point of view
- ❖ thoughts or questions you have as a result of reading the article
- ❖ how the article applies to your life specifically

When you return to school, make sure your name is on the cover of your packet of reflections and make sure they are neatly together and presented. If you would like to add artwork to your writing, that is appreciated but not required.

Part II: Novel Task--Fiction / Literature Component

Read one of the following novels and do the task that follows. Feel free to read more than one! :)

- Alcott, **Little Women**
- Cameron, **A Dog's Journey**
- Doyle, **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
- Card, **Ender's Game**
- Chaldenko, **Al Capone Does My Shirts**
- Dickens, **Oliver Twist**
- Swift, **Gulliver's Travels**

After reading the book, you will create a book jacket that actually fits the copy of the book you have. Follow the instructions for each part. Use construction paper or slightly thicker paper than general printer sheets.

a) Front Cover

On the front cover, draw or paint a depiction of one of the scenes in the story. *****Do not use the same picture that is on the front cover of the book.**

b) Front Inside Flap

Read some reviews about the book online. (Reviews are easily accessed by going to online booksellers such as barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.) Type a few quotes that you agree with, using correct punctuation, and name the reviewer at the end of each quote. Format the quotes in your document so that you can print them out to cut out and paste the piece to the inside flap.

c) Back Inside Flap

Research the author. Type a brief summary of your research that relates to the author. **Use your own words**, but cite the source(s) of your information at the end of your work. It is recommended but not required that you find and print out a small photo of the author as well. Format your work to fit the back flap, and paste it onto the flap.

d) Back Cover

Type a response of about 150 words to the following question:

Why would you recommend the book to someone else? Specifically, what about the characters, setting, and plot are unusual, inventive, or otherwise interesting? (Be sure to discuss each element.) What is the ultimate moral of the story, or the lesson learned by the main character?

Format your response to fit the back cover of your jacket. If you can fit additional artwork, you may add it.

When you return to school, bring the book jacket with you (as well as the copy of the book if possible).

Once we are back in school, we will be doing another summary project for your selected book. Make sure the plot and major details are fresh in your mind when you come back to school!