

SUMMER READING

Assignment & Essay



Summer Assignment &
Back-to-School Writing Activity

INCLUDES:
- Detailed assignment
- 10 prompts that
work with ANY book!
- Graphic organizers
PLUS optional
reading list!



SUMMER READING

Assignment

Summer reading provides an opportunity to enhance your reading skills and enjoy books that *you've* selected. To prepare for the new school year, **you will be required to read two books** over the summer, choosing from the list provided and completing the following assignment.

For each book, you will **record at least 20 significant quotes** (see graphic organizer attached). Each entry should include a quote, the page number on which it is found, and a two-to-three sentence analysis of why the quote is significant. For example, the quote might capture a key moment within the plot, reveal the personality of a major character, or include well-crafted figurative language or important symbolism. Or the passage may inspire thought, draw an emotional connection, or have a personal connection to your own life. Whatever the reason, explain why the quote matters and/ or your reason for selecting it. The quotations should be kept in the order in which they appear in the book.

Be sure to include page numbers for all evidence that you collect. Your evidence should be thoughtful and thorough, as you will write an essay after completing your reading, using your recordings to help support your claims.

Example:

Page	Direct Quote	Significance
58	"Better to be hurt by the truth than comforted with a lie."	In this quote, Baba comments about the jealousy many Afghanis feel when their country is not perceived as a world power. The passage reveals not only Baba's character as a realist, but a universal truth: that those who allow themselves to be pacified by lies end up hurt and disillusioned.

Name: _____ Period: _____

IMPORTANT QUOTES

As you read, record important quotations from the text—whether they capture key plot, character or theme developments; include well-crafted language or important symbolism; or draw an emotional or personal connection to your own life. Explain the significance of each quote in 2-3 sentences.

Book Title, Author: _____

Page	Direct Quote	Significance

IMPORTANT QUOTES
6-10

Page	Direct Quote	Significance

IMPORTANT QUOTES
16-20

Page	Direct Quote	Significance

"IMPORTANT QUOTES" RUBRIC

	Excellent (4-5)	Good/ Adequate (2-3)	Poor (0-1)	Total
Required Elements	Organizer includes all elements as required in assignment, including a minimum 20 quotations, page number and explanation for each, listed in order of appearance.	Organizer includes most elements as required by assignment.	Organizer is missing significant elements required by assignment.	
Content and Analysis	Well-chosen, thoughtful quotes. Entries are clearly articulated and demonstrate deep thinking and insightful reflection about what student is reading—and are not merely summaries.	Entries are adequately articulated and demonstrate some reflection about what student is reading—and are not merely summaries.	Entries demonstrate little reflection about what the student is reading. They may be only summaries and/or may be unclear.	
Presentation	Presentation is neat, clearly legible and shows pride in work.	Presentation is neat and legible.	Presentation is sloppy; it may look rushed or thrown together. Entries may be difficult to read.	
Conventions	Writing shows clear grasp of standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, etc.)	Writing shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard conventions. Spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc. usually correct.	Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc. distract the reader and make it difficult to read.	
Total:				

ESSAY RUBRIC

	Excellent (4-5)	Good/ Adequate (2-3)	Poor (0-1)	Total
Organization	Organization is clear. Includes a catchy introduction, effective thesis statement or controlling idea, thoughtful transitions and a satisfying conclusion.	Organization is strong enough to move reader through the text without confusion.	Writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Problems with organization make it difficult to follow.	
Content/ Supporting Details	Uses clear, compelling and specific details from the text for support. Skillfully integrates at least three direct quotations from the book for textual evidence, correctly attributed.	Uses adequate details from the text for support. Uses at least three direct quotations from book. Attributions are mostly correct.	Support is unspecific, incomplete or vague. May fail to use three direct quotations for evidence and/or fail to attribute them correctly.	
Word Choice	Writer uses rich, colorful language that conveys the message in a precise and interesting way.	The language is functional; words are adequate and correct in a general sense.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary. Words are unspecific and/or used incorrectly.	
Conventions	Writing shows clear grasp of standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, etc.)	Writing shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard conventions. Spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc. usually correct.	Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc. distract the reader and make it difficult to read.	
Total:				

SUMMER READING LIST

Choose two books from the following:

Summer reading should be both pleasurable and thought provoking. With that in mind, below is a reading list that reflects a range of student interests and readability levels—including a mix of popular young adult titles and modern classics, both fiction and non-fiction. Each book on the list is accompanied by a brief summary.

Note: The book list includes some titles containing mature themes and content. Thus, we strongly encourage parents and guardians to review the books that students have selected for their summer reading prior to the books being read. Several websites, including Commonsensemedia.org and Amazon.com offer reviews to help parents and students make the best selection for them.



Fiction

***The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd**—searching for the secret behind her mother’s death, Lily Owens is taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce her to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and divine female power.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Mark Haddon**—a funny, poignant murder mystery and story of an unraveling family told from the perspective of an unlikely 15-year-old hero.

***The Life of Pi*, Yann Martel**—a fantasy adventure of a young boy from India who survives 227 days after a shipwreck, stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger.

***Unwind* (series), Neil Shusterman**—a futuristic tale that follows three teens who all become runaways after their parents have chosen them to be “unwound,” put through a twisted yet socially accepted process of getting rid of unwanted teens.

***Looking for Alaska*, John Green**—seeking “The Great Perhaps,” Miles “Pudge” Halter heads off to boarding school where he meets the fascinating, sexy, and self-destructive Alaska Young—and nothing is ever the same.

***Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*, Chris Crutcher**—Sarah and Eric have been friends since childhood, when his fat and her scars made them both outcasts. Years later, while she lies in a hospital, Eric must uncover her terrible secret before it destroys them both.

***The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak**—In a story narrated by Death himself, Liesel Meminger, a foster child living in World-War II Germany, survives a bleak existence by collecting stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends in a beautifully heartbreaking tale.

SUMMER READING LIST

continued

***Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe**—The story of Okonkwo, a hero of the Ibo village in Nigeria, and his fall from grace within the tribal world, intertwines with a story of the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world with the arrival of European missionaries.

***How the García Girls Lost their Accents*, Julia Alvarez**—four sisters recount their adventures growing up in two cultures.

***The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini**—a heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years.

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Alexie Sherman**—this poignant, funny story follows Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, who leaves to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Ransom Riggs**—A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales. Here he discovers the ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, where (possibly dangerous) children may be, impossibly, still alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photographs.

***The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho**—This modern classic tells the mystical story of Santiago, a shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined.

***Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger**—Capturing the essence of the alienated teenager, Holden Caulfield narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school, in a slang that sounds edgy over 60 years after it was written.

***Brave New World*, Alex Huxley**—Bernard Max feels something is missing in his utopian world in which everyone consumes daily grams of soma, to fight depression, babies are born in laboratories, and the most popular form of entertainment is a "Feelie," a movie that stimulates the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. A classic science fiction work that continues to be a significant warning to our society today.

***The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan**--Amy Tan examines the complex connection between mothers and daughters in this story of four Chinese mother-daughter pairs who beginning meeting to share their stories of unspeakable loss and hope, calling themselves the Joy Luck Club.

SUMMER READING LIST

continued

Non-Fiction

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Solider, Ishmael Beah—Swept up into Sierra Leone’s civil war at the age of twelve, Beah tells his riveting account of how he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the army and found that his gentle soul was capable of truly terrible acts. A true story that reveals the life and mind of a gentle child abducted into the horrors of warfare.

Autobiography of a Face, Lucy Grealy— Grealy’s hard-hitting personal narrative about life as a teen with a face disfigured by cancer covers so much—from the definition of beauty to loneliness to acceptance. A moving and heroic story of the struggle for dignity.

Bad Boy: A Memoir, Walter Dean Myers—Young Adult author Walter Dean Myers grew up in Harlem as a big, aggressive boy, always in trouble in school. Myers remembers what it was like to be a teenager who was different and what it took to overcome his own obstacles

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer, Irene Gut. Opdyke—The author recounts her experiences as a seventeen-year-old Polish girl, hiding and saving Jews during the Holocaust. A heroic story celebrating an individual’s power to make a difference.

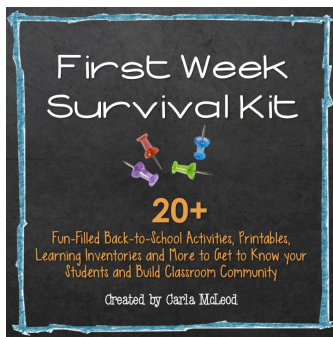
Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different, Karen Blumenthal--Given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, created Apple in his parents' garage: Steve Jobs was never predictable. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched.

Three Little Words, Ashley Rhodes-Courter—the author spent nine years of her life in fourteen different foster homes, clinging on to an unpredictable, dissolving relationship with her mother. In this unforgettable memoir, Ashley finds the courage to succeed through the power of her own voice.

Laughing at My Nightmare, Shane Burcaw—With a hilarious voice, Burcaw describes the challenges he faces as a twenty-one-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy—from awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, shedding an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to have a life threatening disease.

Source: Summaries have been edited and condensed from Amazon.com and GoodReads.com.





THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for purchasing this product. I hope you and your students find it engaging, and that it helps to improve the skills and confidence of your young readers and writers. As always, I sincerely appreciate your support on TeachersPayTeachers!

You may also like-

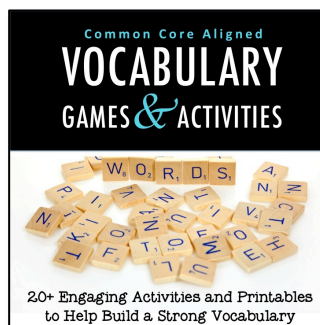
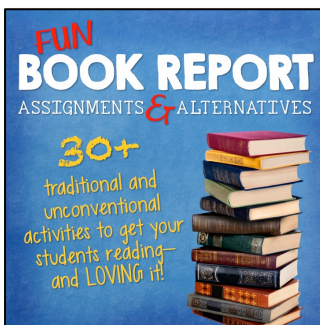
[First Week Survival Kit: 20+ Fun and Practical Activities](#)

[30+ Fun Book Report Alternatives and Assignments](#)

[Vocabulary Mega-Pack: Games, Activities, Printables & More](#)

[Short Story Close Reading Mega-Bundle](#)

[Introduction to the Language of Shakespeare Bundle](#)



For more great products for your middle and high school classroom, visit my store here:

[Mrs. McLeod's Classroom](#)

Visit my [blog](#) and [Facebook page](#) for even more ideas, freebies and special offers.

Thanks again for your support!

Carla McLeod

