

Honors Summer Reading Assignment

May 2021

Dear Student,

You have signed up for Honors 8 English Language Arts, a rigorous academic course for students with high aptitude for reading and writing. The prerequisites for this class are a solid A or B in 7th grade literacy. This course moves at a fast pace as we go beyond the required concepts/ skills of English Language Arts 8 engaging in a more advanced study of literature. Each quarter has a different literary focus to develop reading and analysis strategies for challenging literature, to improve critical thinking, and to strengthen communication skills & confidence. It requires a willingness to do more challenging work, a commitment to do **homework**, and the ability to read and write at or above the 8th grade level.

Please complete the following assignment (both parts) this summer to demonstrate your skills in reading & writing. ***This assignment is due on or before the first day of class.***

Assignment #1: Read a challenging novel. Perhaps try a different genre than you generally choose to read. A list is provided below, but you are not limited to these titles. *Be prepared to discuss the following on the FIRST day of class:*

- 1) *What did you learn from reading this novel? What further questions did it spark?*
- 2) *What did you like or dislike about the book?*
- 3) *What did you find challenging in reading the novel? What strategies did you use to overcome those challenges?*

Young Adult Fiction:

- An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
- I am Messenger by Marcus Zusak
- Ship Breaker- Paolo Bacigalupi
- Stolen- Lucy Christopher
- Where Things Come Back-John Corey Whaley
- House of Scorpion-Nancy Farmer
- What I Saw and How I Lied- Judy Blundell
- The Things We Cannot Say- Kelly Rimmer

Historical Fiction:

- Before We Were Free-Julia Alvarez
- The Book Thief - Markus Zusak
- The Fountains of Silence - Ruta Sepetys
- The Invention of Wings- Sue Monk Kidd
- Salt to the Sea-Ruta Sepetys

Non-Fiction:

- A Long Way Gone-Ismael Beah
- Boys in the Boat-Daniel James Brown

- The Diary of Anne Frank
- Educated-Tara Westover
- The Glass Castle-Jeannette Walls
- Just Mercy - Bryan Stevenson
- Spies of the Mississippi-Rick Bowers
- Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different-Karen Blumental

Classics:

- Pride and Prejudice-Jane Austen
- Call of the Wild - Jack London
- Emma-Jane Austen
- 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea-Jules Verne
- Tom Sawyer-Mark Twain
- Huckleberry Finn-Mark Twain
- The Hobbit-J.R.R. Tolkien
- The Lord of the Rings- J.R.R.Tolkien

Assignment #2: Write an essay about the novel guided by the prompt below. Please type the assignment using Google Docs and share it with Ruth McKee (rbond@d1schools.org) or attach it as an email to ruth.mckee@d51schools.org. This assignment is due on or before the **FIRST DAY of class**.

Besides enjoying a great story, one of the benefits of reading is to learn something about ourselves or about life in general through the characters and their situations. What did you learn about yourself or life as you read this novel?

Identify a major thematic message or statement that is repeated throughout your novel and make a claim regarding that message. Develop your argument with relevant evidence and examples that prove your claim AND provide ample reasoning to support your claim. Be sure to organize your piece in a way that is engaging and makes sense for the reader.

Use this resource from Owl Purdue to assist you with citing your evidence correctly:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

If you have questions about this assignment, please email me at ruth.mckee@d51schools.org Have a great summer. I look forward to meeting all of you in August!

Ruth McKee
Honors ELA, Fruita 8/9 School