

8TH GRADE PRE-AP ENGLISH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

There are 2 parts to the summer reading assignment. Part I and Part II. Please complete both parts, print both parts out, and be ready to turn them in to your Pre-AP English teacher on the first day of school. Email wmattison@homewood.k12.al.us with any questions after thoroughly examining the instructions.

PART I: Read a non-fiction book, write a review, and publish it!

STEP 1: Choose one non-fiction book (no biographies/memoirs) and read it.

If you can't find one, feel free to select a book to read from this excellent list from Goodreads.com (You can just Google "Best Nonfiction No Biographies Goodreads"):

https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/134.Best_Non_Fiction_no_biographies_

This list represents a wide variety of topics AND reading levels. Make sure to pick one that you can handle. If you search a book title in Amazon, usually it lets you flip through the first few pages. If you'd like to pick a book that isn't on this list, just make sure it's non-fiction, at least 200 pages, and fits the basic description outlined.

**Nonfiction is an account or representation of a subject which is presented as fact. This presentation may be accurate or not; that is, it can give either a true or a false account of the subject in question. However, it is generally assumed that the authors of such accounts believe them to be truthful at the time of their composition. Note that reporting the beliefs of others in a nonfiction format is not necessarily an endorsement of the ultimate veracity of those beliefs, it is simply saying that it is true that people believe that (for such topics as mythology, religion). Nonfiction can also be written about fiction, giving information about these other works.*

STEP 2: Write and publish a review of the book on Goodreads.com using the attached Goodreads sentence-by-sentence formula (see page 3).

Create an account with Goodreads.com. When you make an account with Goodreads.com, you can read and write reviews for the books you read! I have made a sentence-by-sentence formula which serves as a descriptive outline for composing a one-paragraph book review.

- Complete the attached Goodreads Review Formula document by filling in each of the 9 blanks with a good sentence fitting each description
- Do NOT use any 1st or 2nd person pronouns
- NEVER start any two sentences with the same word
- Combine the 9 sentences that you wrote using the Goodreads Review Formula into one paragraph.
- Post that paragraph on the Goodreads.com page about the book you chose.

MY ACTIVITY Edit

Review of

ISBN 9780345326492

Rating

★★★★☆

Shelves

[read](#) [edit](#)

Format

Paperback [edit](#)

Status

January 18, 2014 – Shelved

Finished Reading [Add a date](#)

Review

Write a review

[comment](#)

-Below is an example of a review that fits the 9-sentence formula exactly (notice the *three literary elements* I chose to write about were Stephen King’s creative choices, character development, and suspense. Those are very basic elements, but they work, and you can use virtually anything you want!):

MY ACTIVITY Edit

Review of

ISBN 9780450040184

Rating

★★★★☆

Shelves

[read](#) [edit](#)

Format

Paperback [edit](#)

Status

January 1, 2015 – Finished Reading

2 [Show more](#)

Review

When a struggling writer takes his family to the solitude of a mountain hotel for the winter season, the idea of cabin fever reaches new heights. Stephen King's classic thriller, *The Shining*, continues to take the reader's mind on a warped journey. Stephen King's creativity is what has given this story the continued success that it has experienced through three decades. The idea of a hotel with an evil agenda could only come from the mind of quite a creative writer. The development of the characters throughout the novel engages the reader from start to finish. Obviously the Torrance family, as well as the minor characters, make the reader care about their fates. King uses many great strategies to build up suspense. The hotel's past is revealed little by little, which makes the reader want to continue reading. The reputation of *The Shining* goes without saying, and readers who enjoy thrillers will hold this classic in high regards. ([less](#))

[comment](#) · [see review](#) [flag](#)

STEP 3: Print out proof of your published review to turn in on the first day of school.

- Print it out by inserting your review into either a Word document or Google Docs (or just printing the Goodreads web page on which it’s published)

The Goodreads Formula

Breaking writing tasks down, sentence-by-sentence, is a great way to make the task more manageable. Follow these steps to write each sentence of your book review. When you finish, just copy the sentences in order into Goodreads to create a perfect review!

Grab Your Reader's Attention

Hint: Think of the most interesting thing that happened in your book, use that to get people interested in reading it.

Introduce Title and Author

Hint: While you mention the title of the book and the author, give the reader a little more information about the basics of the book.

Effective Literary Element A

Hint: Instead of summarizing and telling the reader everything that happened, we focus on what *elements/techniques/components* etc. were effective in the book.

Example of Effective Literary Element A

Now give a *specific* example of that element as it occurred in the book.

Effective Literary Element B

Hint: Was it the conflicts in the book? Were the characters unforgettable? Great plot? Lots of figurative language? What was it?!!

Example of Effective Literary Element B

Now give a *specific* example of that element as it occurred in the book.

Effective Literary Element C

Hint: Was the dialogue really realistic? Was it incredibly realistic? Was it suspenseful? How about humor? Was it funny? Those are all elements!

Example of Effective Literary Element C

Now give a *specific* example of that element as it occurred in the book.

Conclusion

Hint: You can conclude by saying what types of people would really enjoy this book. Is it more for teens or would everybody enjoy it?

PART II: Create Your Own Album!

You will create your own 10-song soundtrack and album cover that communicates the overall messages conveyed in your non-fiction book. A soundtrack is simply a recording of the musical accompaniment to a movie. So, if your book was a movie, what would the soundtrack be? What would the album cover look like? What would it be called? The following steps are here to help you plan out your project, kind of like an outline for an essay. Filling out the steps or “outline” is not equivalent to completing the project. You will use the following steps to guide you through planning and brainstorming your project, then you will create your own google document/word document to put it all together for your final project that you will print out and submit.

STEP 1: Brainstorm

- Before you start developing your soundtrack, reflect on the main topics, themes (messages from the author to the reader), conflicts, ideas, tone, and mood of the book. List them all here:

- Write information from the book that you think is important to communicate through the soundtrack as well as supporting details (text evidence) that support what you’ve listed above:

STEP 2: Discover New Music & Find Your Favorites!

Think about the genres of music that would be appropriate for the topics and themes/messages conveyed in your book-- and the genres, artists, and songs that you enjoy!

- DISCOVER NEW MUSIC:** After reviewing everything you just completed in the “Brainstorm” section, use the blanks below to brainstorm the themes that you just identified in your book that may be relevant in music. For example, if one of your book’s main topics is sacrificial love, google “songs about sacrificial love,” and check out the sites and songs! Also, you’re encouraged to ask your parent(s)/guardian(s), grandparent(s), etc., if they have any songs that come to mind about your themes and topics. *The goal is to have a well-rounded, diverse soundtrack that works together to reflect the overall essence of your book.* You may find a song that you’ve never heard of before that fits perfectly with your book’s themes and topics.

Songs about _____

Songs about _____

Songs about _____

Songs about _____

Songs about _____

Songs about _____

- FIND YOUR FAVORITES:** Brainstorm a list of your favorite artists and songs in the space below. You may find that some of your favorite songs have lyrics that work well with your book’s themes!

STEP 3: Write down songs you like/discover

As you complete your search from “Step 2,” write down the title of the song, artist, genre, and connection to your book in the chart below. Use this chart to narrow down your soundtrack to 10 songs.

#	Song Title	Artist	Genre	Theme/Topic/Connection

STEP 6: Create a soundtrack title (cannot be the title of your book)

- Looking at the list above, create an original (made by you) title for your compiled soundtrack.
- Original Soundtrack Title: _____

STEP 7: Brainstorm the album cover

What images or themes would you like to include in your album cover? What mediums (supplies/formats) are you interested in using to design your cover? Take the time to plan key concepts and words that you feel must be represented. Brainstorm below:

REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST - Use the following list of requirements as a checklist while creating your project.

SOUNDTRACK:

- ☐ 10 songs (no more, no less)
- ☐ List the song title, artist, and genre of each song
- ☐ 1 quote from each song's lyrics that represents what you brainstormed in "Step 1" about your non-fiction book (one 4-5 line quote from each song)
- ☐ Write 3-4 sentences explaining the connection between the chosen lyrics and the topic, theme, conflict, tone, or mood of your non-fiction book.
- ☐ Include at least 1 direct quote from your book to embed in each of your explanations (1 quote per song explanation)
- ☐ **Appropriate music ONLY. Nothing with explicit content is allowed. When in doubt, don't.**

DESIGNING THE ALBUM COVER:

- ☐ Final product is a 4.75 in x 4.75 in. square (you may choose to design the art digitally or draw your own graphics)
- ☐ Original (made by you) title on the cover (NOT the title of the book)
- ☐ Your name included on the cover
- ☐ Neat, detailed, colorful graphics to represent your non-fiction book
- ☐ Write a short paragraph explanation/reflection of the cover (see specifics in final product example)

★ NOTE: As long as you check off the above boxes, format your album cover any way that you want! Get creative! Have fun with it! Don't just copy the format that is provided as an example on the next page. If you like that format, you can use something similar, but you're encouraged to create something original and unique.

Mediums of Art: Create the album cover digitally or by hand. **NOTE: If you don't consider yourself a very neat or artistic individual, we recommend creating yours digitally. Use a variety of materials including but not limited to:

- Colored pencils, markers, water color, acrylics, etc.
- Cut out magazine/internet/newspaper graphics, letters, or words
- Create in Canva, Google Drawings, Word, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Ribbet, etc.
- iPhone picture apps: (PicLab, PIXLR, Phontograph, Camera+, ColorSplash, etc.)

"How To" Links: When deciding what medium to use, check out these links:

Canva: <https://tinyurl.com/q3zx6gk> Google Drawings: <https://tinyurl.com/ydy4kzqh>

Word: <https://tinyurl.com/ybkj2mmx>

If I make my album cover by hand or digitally, how do I get it onto my final project to turn in?

- **If you create it by hand:** Make sure it's the correct dimensions. If possible, you can glue it, tape it (or however you feel is best to secure it) onto your final project. Just include enough space for it to be attached to your paper once you print it off.
- **If you create it digitally:** Make sure it's the correct dimensions within the program you've chosen to create it in (basically, just make sure it's a perfect square). Save it as an image (either a jpeg or a png) and insert it into your document. Once you've inserted it into your document, select the image, right click/double click it, select "Image Options," then select "Size & Rotation," then set the width and height to 4.75 inches.

FORMATTING: Please format Part II of summer reading as the example below. Use 12 point font, Times New Roman, single spaced, and .5 OR 1 inch margins.

Example of Part II Finished Product

Student Name

Teacher Name

Pre-AP English 8

Date

STORM TIDE

A soundtrack compiled by Student Name



Soundtrack List:

1. "Bad Blood" by Taylor Swift - Pop
2. "Running Away" by Jesse McCartney - Pop
3. "You'll Be in My Heart" by Phil Collins - from Disney's *Tarzan*
4. "I'm Bugged At My Old Man" by The Beach Boys - Rock
5. "I Will Be Found (Lost At Sea)" by John Mayer - Rock
6. "Sunny and 75" by Joe Nichols - Country
7. "Can't Say Goodbye" by Josh Gracin - Country
8. "All By Myself" by Celine Dion - Pop
9. "Fighting Against the World" by Vandenberg - Rock
10. "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson - Pop

Song Analysis:

1. Song: “Bad Blood” - Taylor Swift - Pop

Lyrics:

“Hey

Now we got problems

And I don’t think we can solve them

You made a really deep cut

And, baby, now we got bad blood”

Explanation: In general, Taylor Swift’s “Bad Blood” is about losing a close friend as a result of being betrayed. I chose this quote because it expresses that bad blood (i.e. a feeling of ill will, anger, or hostility between you and another person) is extremely difficult to overcome. This song, and specifically these lyrics, represents the part of the book when...and the theme of...is revealed. (Don’t forget to include at least 1 direct quotation from the book to support your explanation.)

2. (Continue listing out each song, the lyrics, and the explanations until you’ve done all 10 songs. This should take up at least a couple of pages if formatted like the example above.)

Album/Cover Art Explanation Paragraph:

Answer the following questions in the form of a cohesive paragraph:

- ☐ Explain what the title of the soundtrack means. How did you come up with the title? How does it represent the music you chose and the non-fiction book you chose to read?
- ☐ Why did you choose the colors you used? Do the colors symbolize anything? (Hint: they should!)
- ☐ If there are any images on your cover, explain each one. Why is it there? What does it represent?
- ☐ What quotes, conflicts, ideas, topics, and/or themes did you focus on to be illustrated through your album cover? Why?