## Grade 7 Summer Reading 2013 Project: Book Review Letter

You are expected to read every day this summer. Choose ONE book, write a letter addressed to me discussing what you read. Follow the guidelines below.

## Directions

Letter Format and Content:

\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_ Salutation

\_\_\_\_ Please address your letter to me, Mrs. Januski

\_\_\_\_ Opening introduction paragraph

- \_\_\_\_ This is where you should introduce yourself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Also, introduce your book, the author and genre.

\_\_\_\_ *Two* to *Three* Body paragraph<u>s</u>

- \_\_\_\_ Briefly and concisely summarize the plot of the book.
- \_\_\_\_ Discuss what you loved and disliked about the book.
  - Provide specific examples from the book to justify your feelings.
- \_\_\_\_ Explain what you feel is the deeper meaning in the book (theme).
- Provide specific examples from the book.
- \_\_\_\_ Discuss connections you made to the book:
  - text-to-text, text-to-world, text-to-self, or text-to-emotion.

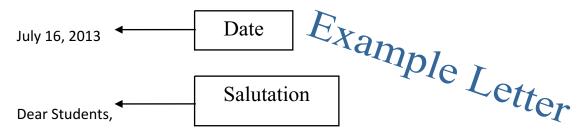
Closing paragraph

Here you should discuss whether you would recommend the book. Explain your reasoning.

\_\_\_\_ Complimentary Closing and Signature

\_\_\_\_ Please close and sign you letter.

\_\_\_\_\_ Type your work using font style Times New Roman and font size 12.



My name is Mrs. Januski and as you now know, I teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts at Thurgoo Marshall. Let me tell you: I am thrilled and excited about next year. I'm also excited to pass on the las good book I just read: <u>The House on Mango Street</u>, by Sandra Cisneros. In her book, Sandra uses the writing form of vignettes. I know what you're thinking – what is a vignette? A vignette is a shor descriptive piece of writing on something or someone important. In her book, Sandra writers a serie of vignettes reflecting moments in the life of Esperanza.

<u>The House on Mango Street</u> is the story of a year in one 13-year old's life. It is a year full of sadness giggly moments and discoveries about what life is all about. Esperanza is the main character living in poor neighbor in Chicago. She has two loving and hard-working parents, a sister and a few good friends. What Esperanza wants more than anything in the world is to have something to feel proud c and to call her own. From the start of the book, she desires nothing more than a beautiful house with a yard. From there, she describes the life that she does have, which includes many unique and strange people on her street. With these people and her friends she shares great moments and heartbreak. Yet in the end she rises above the shame to find hope and self-love.

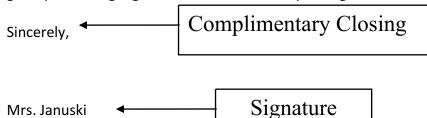
I fell in love with Esperanza from the very first start when she tells us how desperately she wishes fo a beautiful house. Like Esperanza, I too wanted a prettier house as a child. I also enjoyed the simple but powerful words Sandra used to make me cry when Esperanza cried or laugh when she laughed. especially like when Esperanza calls herself a red balloon tied to an anchor. She truly was a energized red balloon tied down by the anchor of fear and doubt.

When Cisneros wrote this book I believe she wanted her readers to see and understand that truhappiness doesn't come from the things we have but from the moments we share. Esperanz thought she wanted a house but what she really wanted was to feel proud of her heritage anherself. Beneath the surface she was just a girl who didn't want to feel unworthy to eat in the cafeteria with other kids. She didn't want people to judge her because of her ethnicity o neighborhood. I understood exactly what Esperanza felt because I immigrated to this country with m family around 1989. It was hard to be accepted at school because I came from a different country. M classmates had a stereotypical view of me and Haiti.

For anyone who has ever felt ashamed or unsure, I would recommend they read this book to see tha there is hope. I would also pass this book to anyone who loves poetry because Sandra Cisneros use great poetic language. It's a short book and you might want to try to read.

Body

Paragraphs



## Summer Reading 2013

Letter Rubric

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

	1 Point	2 Points 3 Points	You	Т
Organization	<ul> <li>No clear structure</li> <li>Very few transitions, creating choppy flow</li> <li>Disregarded much of the directions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fair structure</li> <li>Few awkward moments without</li> <li>Few awkward moments without</li> <li>Smooth transitions throughout letter</li> <li>All parts of directions followed</li> <li>Follows most of the direction in a general way</li> </ul>		
Voice	<ul> <li>Distant, too formal – or too informal, chatty, sarcastic.</li> <li>Tone inappropriate for audience, purpose, topic.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Shows moments of spontaneity</li> <li>Tone acceptable for topic, audience and purpose.</li> <li>Tone suits audience and purpose.</li> </ul>		
Word Choice	<ul> <li>Moments of imprecise, incorrectly used language confusion and unclearness.</li> <li>Overwritten or underwritten (weak words like <i>good, nice, fun).</i></li> <li>Lacks verb power.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Functional, clear language.</li> <li>Some clichés, or overused wordings.</li> <li>Some strong verbs - general phrases.</li> <li>Lively, appealing verbs and striking phrases.</li> </ul>		
Sentence	<ul> <li>Mechanical, but readable.</li> <li>Awkward moments outweigh smoothness.</li> <li>Run –ons, choppy sentences</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Somewhat of a good flow.</li> <li>Some variety in length, structure.</li> <li>Some repetition in sentence beginnings.</li> <li>Purposeful writing.</li> </ul>		
enti	<ul> <li>Noticeable, frequent, distracting errors.</li> <li>Errors on basic words: simple spelling, punctuation, cap's.</li> <li>Through editing required</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Minor errors do not obscure meaning.</li> <li>Readable – but lacks close attention to conventions.</li> <li>Good once-over editing needed.</li> <li>Minor errors that are easily overlooked.</li> <li>Text appears edited.</li> <li>Varied use of punctuation.</li> <li>May need minor touch-ups.</li> </ul>		
1.0 – C		.8- 1.9       2 - 2.1       2.2 - 2.3       2.4       2.5 - 2.7       2.8 - 2.9       3.0       Total pts       = Average         C+       B-       B       B+       A-       A       A+       5 traits       Score		
Pare	nt Signature:			