

JMA 8th Grade Summer Reading Project -- Summer 2018
J.M. Alexander Middle School
IB World School

This summer, every rising 8th grade scholar at J.M. Alexander Middle School will explore what it means to TAKE ACTION to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in preparation for their 8th grade Community Project. This exploration will take place through the **JMA Eighth Grade Summer Reading Project**. See below for more details!

How to complete your JMA 8th Grade Summer Reading Project in FIVE easy steps!

STEP ONE: Pick a memoir, autobiography, or biography to read!

Pick a memoir, autobiography, or biography to read. Make sure it is about a person who has somehow taken action to make a difference in the world. This can include people who have made a difference in:

- The lives of other
- Their community
- The arts (music, dance, movies, TV, visual arts, etc.)
- Science & Engineering
- Business
- Politics
- Social justice issues: poverty, gender inequality, homelessness, police brutality, bullying, etc.
- Civil Rights
- Education
- Health: Mental health, physical health, nutrition, exercise, etc.

You will find several book lists on the JMA website. Pick a book from one of the lists, or do some research into people who have made a difference in the world and find a book written by or about one of those people!

STEP TWO: Read your book, paying special attention to how this person TOOK ACTION and MADE A DIFFERENCE

Read your book! As you read your book, be on the lookout for moments where you learn about how this person took action and made a difference. Questions to ask yourself as you read include:

- What were the key experiences, people, and events that shaped this person's life?
- What communities were important to this person?
- What are his/her interests?
- When and how did this person realize there was a need to take action?
- How did he/she plan for action?
- How did he/she make his/her ideas a reality?
- What motivated and inspired this person to take action?

STEP THREE: Annotate your book! (You can do this WHILE reading)

Mark those places in your book where you notice characters being **CARING** and **PRINCIPLED**. If the book belongs to you, you can highlight, underline or star examples of being **caring** and **principled**. If you DON'T own your book, (or you just don't like writing in your books) use post-its or bookmarks.

STEP FOUR: Complete the attached set of reading response questions!

You can handwritten or type your responses.

STEP FIVE: Bring your annotated book and your completed reading questions to school!

Bring your annotated book and your completed questions to school on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th**. You will need them in your **English Language Arts class**. Your class will use your book and your reading responses as part of a whole-class exploration of what it means to be **caring** and **principled**. **You must bring your book and your completed questions to school no later than Friday, September 7th. It will count as a grade in your ELA class.**

Reading Response Questions

- 1) Biographies and Autobiographies tell the stories of the people, events, and experiences that shape a person's life.
 - a) Who was an individual who had a major influence on your person's life? In what ways was this person important?
 - b) What was an event (or perhaps a series of events) that was significant in your person's life? Why and how was this event (or series of events) so influential?
 - c) Identify a particular experience that stood out to you as an important experience for your person. Why did it catch your attention and how did it shape your person?
- 2) Another thing that shapes a person is his/her community. Describe a community that was important to your person in their life story. (A community could be many things: a group of friends, a neighborhood, a team, a school, a family, a faith group, a workplace, a club, etc.)
- 3) As you read about this person's life, what did you learn about his/her interests, passions and motivations?
- 4) What connections did you make between the person's life and your own life?
- 5) As you read, you were to focus on how the person took action and made a difference.
 - a) In the biography/autobiography you read, how did the person take action?
 - b) What motivated this person to take action? What were his/her goals?
 - c) How did he/she make his/her plans happen?
- 6) How did this person's actions make a difference?
- 7) What did you learn from this person's life story? List/describe at least FIVE lessons you learned.
- 8) During 8th grade, you will TAKE ACTION on a community issue that interests you. Somehow your ACTION will make a difference. With the book you read in mind, we'd like you to brainstorm some ideas to help you plan for your project:
 - a) What are some things that interest you? List at least three.
 - b) What are issues going on in the community and/or the world that you care about? List at least three.
 - c) When you look at your interests and the issues you care about, what is ONE thing that stands out as especially interesting to you?
 - d) What sorts of activities would you like to do for your community project?
 - e) Who might you like to work with?

We will talk about your answers about the Community Project when it's time to start planning!

Scholars should bring their annotated books and completed questions to their ELA class on Friday, 9/7.