

2018 Summer Assignments-Grade 8

IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of Curriculum and Instruction
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Dear Irvington Parents,

The purpose of summer reading is to help your child to continue to grow as a reader. It is a good time to help your child to relax and enjoy a good book. Reading, especially during the summer, is the best way to help your child build stamina as a reader, which will help to prepare your child for the next school year. It is important that you encourage your child to read daily for at least twenty minutes.

To help you and your child select summer reading books, attached is a list of authors and titles from the following:

- Association for Library Service to Children (grades 9-12)
- Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge (grades 6-8)

Two summer reading tasks are required for grades 6-11:

- Select a novel and write a book review
 - Introduce the book
 - Summarize the plot
 - Explain why you would or would not recommend the book
- One Reading and Writing Task (see attached text with questions and prompt)

Both summer reading tasks will count as a grade for cycle one in September for the 2018-2019 school year. Book reviews are expected to be typed or handwritten in 12 pt. font size and 1.5-2 pages in length.

Please visit The Irvington Public Library, where you can get assistance from the librarian and relax while you read in the refreshing cool air!

Ms. Adams
ELA Secondary Supervisor
X2119

Summer Reading List

CHAD 6-8

At the Edge of the World
by Victoria Jamieson
Dial Books, 2017.
ISBN: 9780262429822

Have the lessons she has learned growing up in the Renaissance Faire prepared her for her most difficult quest yet...starting middle school?

My Sister Is a Pirate
by Mena Khan
Salam Reads, 2017.
ISBN: 9781481482065

Among prejudice and change, how do you stay true to yourself and blend in to a new community simultaneously?

At the Edge of the World
by Jason Reynolds
Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016.
ISBN: 9781481415903

Being sent to the country for the summer is culture shock for Gentle and his older brother but an opportunity to get to know Grandpop and some dark family secrets.

At the Edge of the World
by Sarah Dooley
G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2017.
ISBN: 9780393165047

Fela and her sister Zany take their deceased mother's ashes and run away to Asheville - the last place they were happy as a family - where they hope to scatter them as per her wishes.

Operated and defamed to uncover her past, Crow sets sail on a journey of self-discovery.

Shattered, Shifting, and Rising: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA
by Bridget Hens
Balzer & Bray, 2016.
ISBN: 9780062876222

A gruesome and fascinating account of the indispensable role forensic science plays in our criminal justice system.

Booked
by Kwame Alexander
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016, ISBN: 9780544570986

The trial of a soccer tournament, the pressure of family expectations, the social misbehavior of cruises and bullies, and the beauty of words are all explored in this exciting, extraordinary novel in verse.

The Boy's Fall
by Fabia Carraya
Viking Books for Young Readers, 2017.
ISBN: 9781101897236

A strappy real estate developer threatens Arturo's Miami community. Can he help the neighborhood and stop being so awkward around his cute neighbor Carmen? Maybe Jose Mari can help.

At the Edge of the World
by Lauren Weisberger
PhotoIllustrations
by Marco Aronson
and Marissa Budhos
Henry Holt & Co. (BYR), 2017.
ISBN: 9780806096366

Two young photographers set out to change the world with their photo story in the 1930s.

The First Rule of Punk
by Celia C. Perez
Viking Books for Young Readers, ISBN: 9780426280408

Mau struggles to pull together all the different threads of her life: her love of punk rock, her Mexican heritage, her dislike of charity and an identity all her own.

Fight in a Free State
by Lynnda Mullaly Hunt
Puffin Books, 2017.
ISBN: 9780142428426

Ally struggles to hide her dyslexia by continually getting in trouble, until a substitute teacher discovers what she is really hiding.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon
by Kelly Barnhill
Algonquin Young Readers, 2016, ISBN: 9781616206876

Luna, having been turned into a witch as a young girl, discovers the magic within her while facing an evil force.

Fireflies from Hell
by Jake Burt
Fatwell & Friends, 2017.
ISBN: 9781250107114

Streetwise Nikki is plucked from foster care to help a family in trouble stay hidden; how far will she go to protect her newfound home?

Strawhat: The Adventures of Pinocchio
by Megan Morrison
Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015.
ISBN: 9780545638286

After leaving her tower for the first time, Pinocchio joins Jack Bauer's on a perilous journey through the lands of Ymer. First in a series.

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse
by Joseph Marshall III, illustrated by Jim Yellowhawk
Amulet Books, 2015.
ISBN: 9781419707866

Lenny McClean and his grandfather go on a road trip together in order for the boy to learn about his Lakota heritage.

The Boy Who Swam to France
by Adam Gidwitz, illustrated by Matten Aly
Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016, ISBN: 9780625428165

Three travelers unite in a journey through medieval France to escape persecution and save their land.

It All Comes Down to This
by Karen English
Charbon Books, 2017.
ISBN: 9780544838671

In Los Angeles during the summer of 1965, Sophie, an upper middle class African American girl, learns some hard truths about her family, about friendship, and about racism.

Love, Isht
by Karen Rivers
Algonquin Young Readers, 2017, ISBN: 9781616200706

Mischa "Isht" Love's dreams of escaping life in her small town and living on Mars one day are threatened by a sudden illness.

History, Stonewall
by Thanhle Lai
HarperCollins, 2015.
ISBN: 9780062220182

Mai must spend her summer vacation in Vietnam with her grandmother (Ba). While there, Mai learns more about her family, while Ba learns what happened to her husband during the war.

Lucky Broken Girl
by Ruth Behar
Nancy Paulsen, 2017.
ISBN: 9780398546440

After a move from Cuba to New York City, an unexpected accident traps Ruthy in a body cast for months, cutting her off from friends, school and fun, leading her to explore her world through art.

Ma & Mearns: Muttally
by Jake Gerhardt
Viking Books for Young Readers, 2016.
ISBN: 9780451475404

Three boys all trying to gain the attention of the same girl become rivals in this hilarious tale of misadventures.

My Sister Is a Pirate: Tales of Ocean, Iron, and Love
by Kevin Crossley-Holland, illustrated by Jeffrey Alan Love
Candlewick Studio, 2017.
ISBN: 9780763686002

'Warrior' at 20 thrilling tales of bravery, deceit, trickery and treasure in which Viking gods and magical beings struggle for power.

Bringing the Together
by Renee Watson
Bloomsbury USA, 2017.
ISBN: 9781561191058

Set in present day, mostly gentrifying Portland, Oregon, Jade struggles to find her voice amid conflicting pressures. Literary allusions of college art and the

themes of making yourself out of the pieces of your life elevate the coming of age story.

Rhythm Rider: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound
by Andrea David Pinkney
Roaring Brook Press, 2015.
ISBN: 9781696439733

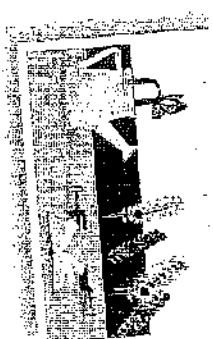
A narrative history of the Motown record label: the business, the music, the people, and the historical, political, and cultural context of its times.

Samurai Rising
by Pamela S. Turner, illustrated by Gareth Hinds
Charlesbridge, 2016.
ISBN: 9781600866842

An epic tale of warriors and rebellion reveals how Minamoto Yoshitune became the greatest samurai in Japanese history.

The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Dial Books, 2015.
ISBN: 9780803740815

Like many other city children during World War II, Ada and her family are evacuated to live with strangers in the countryside, away from the bombings. They are leaving their mother and all they have ever known. How could this be possibly the best thing that could ever have happened to them?



FLSK

Grade 8 Mini-Assessment – Forensic Science

Today you will read a passage about how forensic science is used to solve crimes. You will then answer several questions based on the text. I will be happy to answer questions about the directions, but I will not help you with the answers to any questions. You will notice as you answer the questions that some of the questions have two parts. You should answer Part A of the question before you answer Part B, but you may go back and change your answer to Part A if you want to.

Take as long as you need to read and answer the questions. If you do not finish when class ends, come see me to discuss when you may have additional time.

Now read the passage and answer the questions. I encourage you to write notes in the margin as you read the passage.

Forensic Science: Evidence, Clues, and Investigation

by Andrea Campbell

- 1 Today, more than a century after Sherlock Holmes first astonished and delighted readers with his brilliance, most crimes are still solved the way they were in the Victorian era: through confessions or eyewitness accounts. Increasingly, however, police and prosecutors rely on evidence of the type Holmes often used to get at the truth: scientific, or forensic, evidence. Today that evidence typically comes from sources such as fingerprints, body fluids, and bullets.
- 2 In contrast to the romantic image of one Holmes-like supersleuth single-handedly uncovering the facts of a case, truth seeking in law enforcement and criminal justice is actually a collaborative effort, involving the police, a medical examiner or coroner, investigators, and lab technicians. Each applies his or her own expertise to the problem. But modern criminal investigations still begin in a manner Sherlock Holmes would find familiar—with careful examination of the crime scene. After police have secured the site, criminal investigators collect physical evidence. This evidence will be sent to crime labs, where expert technicians and forensic scientists will analyze it. Their findings, in turn, will affect the course of the police investigation and, if a suspect is charged, will be presented to the jury at trial.
- 3 In our title, we have referred rather informally to forensic science. However, distinction should be made between the terms *forensic science* and *criminalistics*, which are often used interchangeably. Forensic science is a science applied to answering legal questions. It draws together principles and knowledge from one field, or a combination of fields—such as medicine, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and anthropology—and applies them to legal proceedings. For example, *serology* is the study of blood and other body fluids; *forensic serology* is the study of blood and body-fluid evidence to help reconstruct a crime or an accident. Criminalistics, on the other hand, is a branch of forensic science that deals specifically with the scientific collection and examination of physical evidence as it relates to a crime. Any references in this text to forensic science are actually references to the entire field of discovery.
- 4 But what exactly is forensic evidence? How is it used, and what does it mean in court?

- 5 Like any competitive game, a criminal trial is governed by rules. The rules of evidence dictate how evidence can be presented in the courtroom. For example, the prosecution, or the attorney representing the state (and the people in that state), may present various legal proofs in order to convince the judge or jury of the defendant's guilt. These can be witnesses, records, documents, objects, or other materials.
- 6 Four kinds of evidence may be admitted at trial:
 1. *Testimony*, statements from competent, sworn witnesses.
 2. *Direct evidence*, which refers to observations of eyewitnesses.
 3. *Circumstantial evidence*, which is any information that tends to prove or disprove a point at issue.
 4. *Real, or physical, evidence*, sometimes also called hard evidence, which refers to any tangible article or object of any kind, such as fingerprints, weapons, and bloodstains. (Real evidence may also include facsimiles such as photographs and reproductions.)
- 7 Seldom is guilt proved or blame assessed with a single piece of evidence. But forensic evidence, which falls into the fourth category above, often serves as the added weight that helps tip the scales of justice. It may be used to reconstruct the crime, identify participants, or confirm or discredit an alibi. It also frequently helps to eliminate suspects. It establishes the facts of the crime—for example, that the bullet that lodged in the victim's heart and caused his death came from the defendant's gun. It can provide a step-by-step analysis of the events leading up to, including, and following the incident. In short, forensic science can be the glue that holds all the facts of a case together.
- 8 Sometimes prosecutors have little except forensic evidence from which to construct a case; other times they use forensic evidence merely to corroborate the other types of evidence they've developed. Forensic evidence does not serve all cases. Typically it plays a far more important role in the investigation of violent crimes than in the investigation of property crimes or accidents. But one thing is certain. Forensic evidence is static. It stands immobile. Because unless the criminal takes something away from the crime scene, hard evidence does not leave. Unlike crime scene bystanders, hard evidence will not get confused or become frightened. And unlike criminals, it will not make up stories or lie.
- 9 Yet hard evidence is only as reliable as the people who collect, analyze, and interpret it. At trial, different experts sometimes draw different conclusions from the same evidence. And defense attorneys frequently attack the validity of forensic evidence by pointing to lapses in the way the evidence was collected or handled. Thus it is essential that law enforcement officers, forensic scientists, and prosecutors understand and meticulously follow proper evidence-handling procedures. Otherwise the guilty may go free, or the innocent may be wrongly convicted.

Excerpt from *Forensic Science: Evidence, Clues, and Investigation*; pgs. 14-18; by Andrea Campbell; © 2000 by Chelsea House Publishers; ISBN 0-7910-4950-7

QUESTIONS:

1. According to the excerpt, how are Sherlock Holmes' methods similar to the methods of forensic scientists today?

- A. Holmes used hard evidence to solve crimes.
- B. Holmes found instincts rather than testimony more helpful in solving crimes.
- C. Holmes worked collaboratively with others in order to solve crimes.
- D. Holmes relied heavily on science to help gather evidence to solve crimes.

2. The following question has two parts. First answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A: In paragraph 2, what is the meaning of the word *collaborative*?

- A. skillful
- B. dull
- C. shared
- D. unreliable

Part B: Which antonym that appears in paragraph 2 best helps the reader to understand the meaning of *collaborative*?

- A. romantic
- B. Holmes-like
- C. single-handedly
- D. truth seeking

3. According to paragraph 3, which statement accurately represents the relationship between *forensic science* and *criminalistics*?

- A. *Criminalistics* combines concepts from many areas of study, but *forensic science* does not.
- B. *Forensic science* can be useful in court cases, while *criminalistics* cannot.
- C. *Criminalistics* is a subset of the larger field of *forensic science*.
- D. *Forensic science* involves more scientific collection than *criminalistics* does.

4. Mr. Moore was accused of stealing Mrs. Park's laptop computer from her office. Four main pieces of evidence were used in the trial. Draw an arrow from each piece of evidence to match it to the kind of evidence described in paragraph 6 of the text.

Piece of Evidence	Kind of Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police found a strand of hair the same color and length as Mr. Moore's in Mrs. Park's office.	Testimony
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A computer technician stated in court that the laptop found by the police had been regularly used by Mrs. Park.	Direct Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Moore's office mate, Mr. Fowler, heard Mr. Moore tell Mrs. Park's that he would take her laptop because she owed him money.	Circumstantial Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A neighbor named Mrs. Blair stated that she opened Mrs. Park's office door and saw Mr. Moore lifting the laptop off the top of the desk.	Real, or Physical, Evidence

5. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A: Which statement most accurately summarizes the text?

- A. Criminal investigators still solve crimes in the same manner Sherlock Holmes solved crimes many years ago.
- B. Forensic science is a complicated process that relies too much on human perception and not enough on actual scientific evidence.
- C. From the several types of evidence that can be presented at trial, including eyewitness testimony, forensic evidence is the most reliable.
- D. Solving crimes involves law enforcement officials working together to gather many types of evidence to construct a clear picture of a crime.

Part B: Which paragraph best illustrates this summary?

- A. Paragraph 2
- B. Paragraph 5
- C. Paragraph 6
- D. Paragraph 9

6. In paragraph 7, the author includes these three sentences about forensic science:

It may be used to reconstruct the crime, identify participants, or confirm or discredit an alibi. It also frequently helps to eliminate suspects. It establishes the facts of the crime—for example, that the bullet that lodged in the victim's heart and caused his death came from the defendant's gun. It can provide a step-by-step analysis of the events leading up to, including, and following the incident.

What is the purpose of these sentences in paragraph 7?

- A. The sentences contrast the role of forensic evidence to the roles of the other kinds of evidence.
 - B. The sentences give specific examples to demonstrate how important forensic evidence can be.
 - C. The sentences warn that using a single piece of forensic evidence carries serious risk.
 - D. The sentences explain the argument that forensic evidence is not enough to prove a case.
7. Highlight three sentences in the text that reveal the author's doubtfulness about the accuracy of the role of humans in the legal process.

8. Is forensic evidence the most important type of evidence to present at a trial? Write an essay that explains what information the author provides that answers this question. Remember to use information from the text as you delineate and evaluate the evidence the author provides to answer this question. Use the lines on the next pages for your response.

Your response will be scored on how well you:

- Demonstrate your understanding of the ideas of the text
- Use evidence from the text to help develop and support your ideas
- Organize your response in a logical manner
- Demonstrate an appropriate writing style through the use of precise word choice and varied sentences
- Use standard conventions for writing

[Blank lined area for writing]

GRADES 6-11 (July 2015) **v3.01**
PARCC SCORING RUBRIC FOR PROSE CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ITEMS

Research Simulation Task and Literary Analysis Task

Construct Measured	Score Point 4	Score Point 3	Score Point 2	Score Point 1	Score Point 0
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates full comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and inferentially by providing an accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides effective and comprehensive development of the claim or topic that is consistently appropriate to task, purpose, and audience; uses clear reasoning supported by relevant text-based evidence in the development of the claim or topic; is effectively organized with clear and coherent writing; establishes and maintains an effective style. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and/or inferentially by providing a mostly accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides mostly effective development of claim or topic that is mostly appropriate to task, purpose, and audience; uses mostly clear reasoning supported by relevant text-based evidence in the development of the claim or topic; is organized with mostly clear and coherent writing; establishes and maintains a mostly effective style. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates basic comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and/or inferentially by providing a generally accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides some development of claim or topic that is somewhat appropriate to task, purpose, and audience; uses some reasoning and text-based evidence in the development of the claim or topic; demonstrates some organization with somewhat coherent writing; has a style that is somewhat effective. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates limited comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and/or inferentially by providing a minimally accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides minimal development of claim or topic that is limited in its appropriateness to task, purpose, and audience; uses limited reasoning and text-based evidence; demonstrates limited organization and coherence; has a style that is minimally effective. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates no comprehension of ideas by providing an inaccurate or no analysis; is undeveloped and/or inappropriate to task, purpose, and audience; includes little to no text-based evidence; lacks organization and coherence; has an inappropriate style.
Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<p>The student response to the prompt demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be a few minor errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage, but meaning is clear.</p>				
	<p>The student response to the prompt demonstrates some command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that occasionally impede understanding, but the meaning is generally clear.</p>				
	<p>The student response to the prompt demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that often impede understanding.</p>				
	<p>The student response to the prompt does not demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity. Frequent and varied errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage impede understanding.</p>				