

Dear Eighth Grade Parent/Guardian:

Greetings from the Coakley Middle School's grade eight English teachers! The grade eight summer reading program is offering four books for your child to choose from; each student is to read one of these four books: ***Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*** by B.M. Mooyaart (Translator), ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*** by John Boyne, or ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak, or ***Buddha Boy*** by Kathe Koja.

All four books emphasize the importance of tolerance and the value of diversity. The stories provide a valuable opportunity for opening honest and imperative discussion concerning discrimination between adolescents, their peers, and their teachers. The eighth grade ELA teachers strongly believe this topic to be a relevant and essential issue to our classroom content and future areas of study. We would like to suggest and encourage that they read and discuss the book of their choice with other incoming eighth graders over the summer if possible, although this is not required. We would also like to invite you to read the book with your child and allow them to benefit from your insight, perspective, and experience.

The English/Language Arts Department believes strongly in the summer reading program. We have found that writing assignments from past years have been well done and the themes of the novels tie in nicely with the eighth grade ELA curriculum. The assigned reading and subsequent writing assessment encourages our students to truly engage themselves in the text while expressing creativity and understanding through their writing. Students will have a common base from which they can derive ideas and make connections to other forms and genres of literature and stories studied in our classes throughout the year.

As always, we will evaluate this year's summer reading assignment in the fall with the hope of improving our program each year.

Sincerely,

The Coakley Middle School Grade Eight English Department

We encourage students to read more than just the selected work and to keep a log of their other reading experiences.

**Coakley Middle School
Incoming 8th Graders' Summer Reading Assignment**

Required Book: (Choose 1 of the following options)

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

by B.M. Mooyart (Translator)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

by John Boyne

The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak

Buddha Boy

by Kathe Koja

Required Assignment: Evidence Graphic Organizer

Due Date: The first day of school

The incoming 8th graders are required to read one of the books from the options listed above. There will be an open response writing assignment given in class during the first week of school. Students should complete the graphic organizer provided as they read to help them analyze the main character of the book. Students will be allowed to use the graphic organizer, as well as the book, during the writing assignment.

***The required reading and graphic organizer must be completed and brought to school on the first day of school.**

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Weight: Graphic Organizer - 2 Homework Assignments; In-Class Response - Minor Assessment

8th Grade Summer Reading Character Traits and Evidence Graphic Organizer

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl – B.M. Mooyart

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas – John Boyne

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

Buddah Boy – Kathe Koja

DIRECTIONS: As you read your summer reading book, think about the traits that define the main character. Use the graphic organizer to list FIVE (5) traits for the main character. Cite evidence (quote with page number) and an explanation to support each trait. You will use this graphic organizer when completing your writing assignment during the first week of school. You may include an optional second piece of evidence and explanation for each trait.

Book Title:
Main Character:

1. TRAIT:

a) Evidence:

a) Explanation:

b) Evidence:

b) Explanation:

2. TRAIT:

a) Evidence:

a) Explanation:

b) Evidence:

b) Explanation:

3. TRAIT:**a) Evidence:****a) Explanation:****b) Evidence:****b) Explanation:****4. TRAIT:****a) Evidence:****a) Explanation:****b) Evidence:****b) Explanation:****5. TRAIT:****a) Evidence:****a) Explanation:****b) Evidence:****b) Explanation:**