

JMR - Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading 2019

Dear Rising 8th Grader,

In an effort to keep your reading skills sharp and to enjoy some really good books over the summer, your assignment is to read ONE book from the list below. As you read, we encourage you to annotate each text with the theme of “CHALLENGES” in mind. In the first few weeks of school, you will take a formal writing assessment that asks you to identify and analyze the impact of the **challenges** presented to characters, individuals, and/or societies you read about over the summer.

Please don’t worry about the assignment at this time! Your 8th grade Language Arts teacher will spend some time when school returns helping you to think about and prepare for this assessment. All you have to focus on in the coming weeks is reading your novel, annotating the text, and enjoying your book. A brief annotation guide is included with these instructions to help you think about the theme of “challenges” as you read. While you’re not required to annotate, you may find it very helpful to do so in order to focus your reading and provide you with great ideas for the writing assessment in September.

Book Selections (CHOOSE 1 of the FOLLOWING TITLES):

House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

Behind Rebel Lines by Seymour Reit

Downriver by Will Hobbs

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANNOTATING THE TEXT:

1. **What is annotating?** A way that readers track their responses to various texts.
2. **Why do we annotate?** So we can refer back to our ideas when we are asked to write and talk about text, making sure to include textual evidence that we’ve noted while reading.
3. **When do we annotate?** You only need to annotate when something strikes you as important or particularly meaningful, especially if you already know what the focus of your reading should be (in the case of summer reading, you should annotate the text when you come across ideas or information that “speaks” to the concept of CHALLENGES).
4. **What does annotating look like?** Here are samples from one student’s annotations while reading *Michael Jordan: Legends in Sports*, by Matt Christopher (2008):
 - ? - How will this situation (or event) challenge Michael Jordan and how will he handle such challenges?
 - ! – I can’t believe that Michael Jordan didn’t make the team in high school!
 - * - His decision to continue playing basketball would’ve been tough, but it changed his life (and the sport of basketball) forever.
 - **(underlining important ideas)** – “Michael learned quickly that he would have to earn each victory.”