

CMS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Seventh Grade Summer Reading 2017

Why do we have required summer reading?

We believe that all students need to be able to read and write effectively. We further believe that summer reading encourages students to maintain skills learned during the previous school year. Through their reading of one of the selected summer texts, students will be exposed to some of the themes that are woven throughout our core literature. Having a common base from which they can derive ideas and make connections to texts studied in class enables students to discuss and interact with literature and helps them make thematic connections throughout the school year. Answering questions that inspire higher order thinking will enable students to remember key points of their reading and will assist them in the writing of the in-class essay.

What are our goals and objectives for Summer Reading?

- To encourage students to read closely and answer questions effectively
- To help students form thematic connections between texts
- To gather samples of student writing to assess writing strengths and weaknesses
- To maintain skills learned prior to summer

GRADE 7 Summer Reading Options. Choose one book.

***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

***So B It* by Sarah Weeks**

***White Fang* by Jack London**

What are the assignments?

When must they be completed?

A. BLOOM'S QUESTIONS

HANDED IN THE FIRST CLASS

- Students need to answer **11** of the questions on the reverse of this sheet. The questions apply to all of the seventh grade book selections.
- All **11** questions should be answered completely and thoughtfully and use specific details and/or direct quotes whenever possible.
- Answers must be typed, printed out, and sheets stapled for the first day of classes.

B. IN-CLASS ESSAY

WRITTEN IN THE THIRD CLASS

- Analytical essay
- Use two-column notes made in class to inform writing

A grade for each assignment will be incorporated into the first term average.

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

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HELPFUL HINT: Using Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* as an example, an answer to Remembering question #2 below would look like this:

EXAMPLE: *The protagonist of A Christmas Carol is Ebenezer Scrooge who begins the story as an angry, solitary, old miser who is described by the narrator as a man so cold-hearted that "External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, nor wintry weather chill him" (3). The main antagonist is not a person as much as it is the mistakes Scrooge has made in his past and present. Scrooge's past mistakes work against him and inhibit his ability to be happy in the present and future. This is why it becomes so important for him to learn from these mistakes and change before it is too late.*

| | <u>Prompts/Questions</u> |
|--|---|
| Remembering <u>ANSWER ALL THREE</u> | 1. What is the main setting of the novel? List the places mentioned in the book. 2. Who is the protagonist? Who or what is the main antagonist? (see example above) 3. What problems does one of the characters have, and how does he or she solve it? |
| Understanding <u>ANSWER ALL THREE</u> | 4. Give an example of indirect characterization: personality traits shown through actions and dialogue. (For example: <i>Jimmy walked down the street frowning</i> . Reader infers Jimmy is upset.) 5. Tell in your own words how the setting of the story affected a character. 6. Describe the mood of a specific scene from the novel using at least two relevant details. |
| Applying <u>CHOOSE TWO</u> | 7. Did this book give you any new ideas about yourself? Why or why not? 8. Write a letter to a friend recommending this book. 9. Identify a situation in which the protagonist showed courage. Describe how you would have reacted in the same situation. 10. Tell 5 ways in which you are like the main character. |
| Analyzing <u>CHOOSE ONE</u> | 11. Compare and contrast two of the characters in this book. 12. Compare the novel you read this summer to a novel you read last year. 13. The summer book choices are realistic novels. Which event in the novel you read seems most unbelievable? 14. Find an Internet article from a primary source connected to a social issue from the novel (i.e. bullying, abuse, mental illness, etc.). Record your source (title of article, title of publication, the Web site, author, and date of publication). Write a minimum 10-sentence summary of the article. (Wikipedia, Google, etc., are <u>not</u> primary sources) |
| Evaluating <u>CHOOSE ONE</u> | 15. Do you like the way the story ended? Why or why not? 16. Which character would you most like to meet and why? 17. Describe a situation in which a character is treated unfairly and explain how it is unfair to that character. |
| Creating <u>CHOOSE ONE</u> | 18. Choose a character from your book, then think of ONE gift you would like to give him/her based on that character's specific needs. Explain why you gave that gift. 19. Choose a character from the novel and write a creative continuation of his/her story. 20. Choose a character from the novel and think of a shape that fits that character's traits. Draw the shape, describe the character inside the shape, and explain why you chose the shape outside of it. (<u>Draw this answer on the back of your last page of answers.</u>) |