

Somerset Academy Middle School

Summer Reading Selections FOR INCOMING 2010-2011

6TH GRADERS

Read the Required Reading novel and one other novel from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your second novel, you must complete a 500 word essay on one of the topics listed on the assignment sheet.

Required Reading: The Giver by Lois Lowry

Choose one of the novels below:

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

Eleven by Sandra Cisneros

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

The Wish Giver: Three Tales of Coven Tree by Bill Brittain

The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

On My Honor by Marion Dane Bauer

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

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7TH GRADERS

Read the Required Reading novel and one other novel from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your second novel, you must complete a 500 word essay on one of the topics listed on the assignment sheet.

Required Reading: Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Choose one of the novels below:

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Begging for Change by Sharon Flake

Money Hungry by Sharon Flake

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

How to Salsa in a Sari by Dona Sarkar

A Face First by Priscilla Cummings

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

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8TH GRADERS

Read the Required Reading novel and one other novel from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your second novel, you must complete a 500 word essay on one of the topics listed on the assignment sheet.

Required Reading: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Choose one of the novels below:

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Hoop Dreams: True Story of Hardship and Triumph by Ben Joravsky

Taking Sides by Gary Soto

Lance Armstrong: It's Not About the Bike. My Journey Back to Life by Lance
Armstrong

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants (Series) by Ann Brashares

Gatekeepers (Series) by Anthony Horowitz, Anthony

Peeled by Joan Bauer

White Fang by Jack London

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Required Summer Assignments:

I. For the Required Reading, you will be required to take an exam during the first week of school. Make sure you have read the novel in its entirety and be able to respond to questions relating to plot, characters, setting, conflict, resolution, etc.

II. For the second novel of your choice, you are to complete a 500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:

(Note: Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font size)

Choice A:

Using Characters to Reveal Theme in a Story

An author may create characters in a short story or novel who reveal the story's message or theme. Using your summer reading novel selection, consider the following: How is the development of the characters important to the message or theme of the story? How do the characters in the story reveal that message or theme?

In a well-developed essay, discuss how your selected characters develop and/or change throughout the story and how they reveal the overall meaning or theme. Use facts, details, and examples from the story to support your discussion.

As you write, remember your essay will be scored based on how well you:

- develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your thesis to the audience.
- support your thesis with meaningful examples and references from the text, carefully citing any direct quotes.
- organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
- edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.

Choice B:

Analysis of an Author's Style

An author's style describes his/her particular use of language in telling a story. For example, an author may use mostly short or long sentences or a combination of both. An author also may rely mostly on dialogue or just include a small amount of

dialogue in a story. In short, an author generally uses a style that best fits the story he/she is telling, as well as the particular setting of the literary work.

In a detailed essay, choose a particular literary work (i.e., novel, short story, poem), and describe the author's use of style within that work. You might want to include how the author's style suits the subject matter and setting and how it contributes to the overall effect of the piece.

As you write, remember your essay will be scored based on how well you:

- develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your thesis to the audience.
 - support your thesis with meaningful examples and references from the text, carefully citing any direct quotes.
 - organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
 - use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
 - edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.
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Choice C:

Theme in Literature

A theme is the main message a reader can learn about life or human nature from a literary piece. From a story you have read in class, identify a theme that the reader may learn from the story. In a well-organized essay, describe this theme. Use textual examples from the story to support your ideas and explain how they support the theme.

As you write, remember your essay will be scored based on how well you:

- develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your thesis to the audience.
- support your thesis with meaningful examples and references from the text, carefully citing any direct quotes.
- organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
- edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.