

Over the summer, all rising middle school students are required to read **three books by three different authors**. Students must read the mandatory novel and then select two additional novels from the list below.

The assignments for the novels are as follows:

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Only**

Choose one book from the list, and write a friendly letter to your teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be handed in to your English teacher once school starts in August.

### **The mandatory novel**

**A one-page letter should include the following:**

- 1st paragraph: A short introduction, including your name, the elementary school you attended, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book.
- 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book, a description of one or two of the main characters, the setting, and a summary of the story.
- 3rd paragraph: Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.

### **Second Novel**

For your second book, just take some brief notes on an index card. These cards will be your own personal notes to help you remember the story. Your teachers will assign book projects in August.

**A card for one book should include:**

- **Title and author**
- **Genre** - type of book (for example: mystery, historical fiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, adventure, etc.)
- **Who** - main characters
- **What** - short summary of the story
- **When** - time period of the story
- **Where** - setting of the story
- Your **personal rating** of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.

### **Third Novel**

Your full name:

Title of the book:

Author of the book:

Genre of the book: (for example: mystery; fantasy; adventure; contemporary fiction; historical fiction; etc.)

1. Why did you select this book and what were your expectations?
2. Explain how your expectations were realized or not realized.
3. How does this book relate to other books you have read?
4. How does this book relate to personal knowledge or experience?
5. Did this book change any of your previous opinions or thoughts?
6. I recommend this book to other readers who... and why?
7. How many stars would you give this book? (1-5, with 5 being the highest)

Over the summer, all rising middle school students are required to read **three books by three different authors.** (**advance students select four novels**) Students must read the mandatory novel and then select two additional novels from the list below.

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## ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Only***

### **Keeping Your Summer Reading Logs**

Reading logs are a way to demonstrate that you are being thoughtful about what you are reading. There are a few simple rules:

- The mandatory novel and then select **two books (advance students select three books)** from the summer reading list that interest you.
- Write **two different logs for each book** in a blue response journal, for a **total of six entries. (eight for advance students)**
- On the outside of the journal, write your first and last name in the top right hand corner.
- For each entry inside, write the date at the top of your journal page, as well as the title of the book, the author's name, the page number of the book you are on, and the log number for each particular book. (For example, if this is the second log you have written for ***Into Thin Air***, write **Log #2.**) Write neatly in ink with margins (or type and paste). Length for each entry will vary, usually 2-3 sides, or 250-300 words.

### **Here's the list of options to choose from:**

1. Imagine that you are a character in the book, and write a diary entry about your experiences, thoughts, and feelings.
2. Write a letter to a character in the book, giving her or him advice.
3. Imagine that you are the author of the book, and describe what happened to one of the characters years before or years after the time of the book.
4. Write a short composition on one of the themes for the book. For example, if one of the themes is love, you might write a composition about love, using examples from the book.
5. Write a poem, song, or story about character, conflict, theme, symbol, or another element of the book.
6. Draw a picture or diagram based on one of the characters or scenes from the book. (You may do this only once per book.) You should draw with care and purpose, and provide detailed explanations or quotes.
7. Interview one of the characters about the story or about anything your imagination comes up with, asking questions in your voice and giving answers in the character's voice.
8. Review the book. Give your opinions about it; cite examples and quotes from the book to support why you think it is an interesting book or not. Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not?
9. Write about the main problem or conflict in the book. Who is involved and what is it about?
10. Finish the sentence: "I love (hate) the way the author (or a character) . . ." (Remember, 250-300 words!)
11. As an alternative to #8, write a detailed review of your book and submit it to Pollard's Summer Reading List Online Reviews page. Be sure to also print a hard copy of your review, and paste it into your blue journal.
12. Design a final examination for your book. The exam must contain 5-10 T/F, 10 multiple choice, 5 short answer, and one essay. Supply a completed answer sheet.

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## ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Only***

### **The mandatory novel**

**A one-page letter should include the following:**

- 1st paragraph: A short introduction, including your name, the elementary school you attended, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book.
- 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book, a description of one or two of the main characters, the setting, and a summary of the story.
- 3rd paragraph: Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.

### **Second Novel**

You will write a letter to your seventh-grade English teacher. You must detail your thoughts on one of the books. In your letter include enough detail so we know you read carefully, but remember this **is not** a summary of the plot...we want to know what you think, not, on a simple, factual level, what the book is about.

*Here are some suggestions for what you can include in your letter:*

- Offer your opinion on what the speaker [narrator] or another character says or does or how he/she is described.
- Ask a question based on what you wonder about. That is, what do you think the author is trying to say here? Or why does a character do or say something? Then write a response to this question. Your question should be open-ended, one that can't be answered yes or no, one that can be answered in many ways, depending on your opinion of what the author is trying to say.
- What you like about the writing itself . . . how you notice specific language the author uses and how it really grabs you, makes you feel, think. Try to explain why you like the writing . . . is it the word choice? vivid descriptions? vivid characters described in great detail? poetic devices, such as simile and metaphor or details that appeal to our sense of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste?
- Describe how you felt [saddened, hopeful, relieved, angry, etc.] while reading, then try to explain why you may have felt the way you did. **DON'T SUMMARIZE!!!**

### **Third Novel (Third and Fourth for advance students)**

Your full name:

Title of the book:

Author of the book:

Genre of the book: (for example: mystery; fantasy; adventure; contemporary fiction; historical fiction; etc.)

1. Why did you select this book and what were your expectations?
2. Explain how your expectations were realized or not realized.
3. How does this book relate to other books you have read?
4. How does this book relate to personal knowledge or experience?
5. Did this book change any of your previous opinions or thoughts?
6. I recommend this book to other readers who... and why?
7. How many stars would you give this book? (1-5, with 5 being the highest)