

Middle School Required Summer Reading

To help you be more prepared for your middle school language arts class next year, you will need to read the novel assigned for your grade (the one you are entering) and complete the attached corresponding assignment **before** the first day of school. Even if you have read the book in the past, you will need to reread it to complete the assignment well. If you have seen the movie, you will *definitely* need to read the book because...well, we all know the movies leave out so much, and the book is always better. While we do not want you to wait so long you have to rush, it is better to read the novel closer to the end of summer so it is fresher in your mind because we will spend the first few weeks doing activities with the book and discussing.

In addition, you must complete the assignment listed for your grade level and submit it to your language arts teacher **on the first day of school**. Please, read and follow all directions carefully. There is an information sheet with reminders of what some of the reading terms are.

Make sure all work is YOUR OWN and be creative! This is the first impression your teacher will have of you, so give us **YOUR** best effort...**YOUR** best.

These are some of our favorite books, and we will draw from them regularly throughout the year. We look forward to meeting you all in August.

Happy Reading!

Your Middle School Language Arts Teachers

6th Grade - ***Wonder*** by R. J. Palacio; Book Head Report

7th Grade - ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry; One Pager

8th Grade - ***The Hunger Games*** by Suzanne Collins or ***Island of the Blue Dolphins*** by Scott O'Dell (2 choices given on separate document)

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Reading Terms

Static Characters

- Static characters stay the same throughout the book.
- This does not mean in appearance or age or anything physical. It means in character (personality, beliefs, actions).
- If the character was mean at the beginning and is still mean at the end, he or she is a static character. Or if the character is nice to everyone all the way through, he or she is a static character.

Dynamic Characters

- In contrast, dynamic characters change their character (personality, beliefs, actions) as the story progresses.
- Usually this change is a result of conflict and therefore is an internal change that results in a personality/attitude/belief change.

Turn Point

- A turning point in a story is a moment when a character makes a decision that changes the course of the story.

Character Traits

- These describe what kind of person the character is...not how they feel.
- Character traits are things like responsible, compassionate, creative, loyal, humble, curious, honest, etc.

Theme

- What life lesson does the author want you to learn?
- Theme is NOT the main idea or a summary.
- Theme is written as a statement that can be applied to anyone's life anywhere at any time.
- Theme should NOT include anything specific to any story at all.

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Symbolism

→ The use of an object, which can be a word or an image, to communicate a distinct idea or representation of something else

Conflict

- Character v. Character
- Character v. Nature
- Character v. Self
- Character v. Society