

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

Summer 2025

Rising 6/7 Grade

Dear students,

First and foremost, enjoy your summer! The purpose of this assignment is not to overwhelm, but to keep the cogs of your brain turning over the summer! The book list to choose from and the directions for the assignment are below. If you have any questions, please ask your homeroom teacher BEFORE we let out for summer break so we can clarify it for you! Happy Reading!

Book List (choose one book from your upcoming grade level category)

Rising 6th Graders

- **Signs of Survival: A Memoir of the Holocaust**
<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/signs-of-survival-a-memoir-of-the-holocaust>
- **The Blackhorn Key** by: Kevin Sands
<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-blackthorn-key-book-1>
- **Not an Easy Win** by: Chrystal D. Giles
<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/not-an-easy-win>
- **Dear Student** by: Elly Swartz
<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/dear-student>
- **Map of Flames** by: Lisa McMann
<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/map-of-flames-the-forgotten-five-book-1>

- **When Winter Robeson Comes** by: Brenda Woods

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/when-winter-robesson-came>

Rising 7th Graders

- **The School of Whatnots** by: Margaret Peterson Haddix

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-school-for-whatnots>

- **The Boy on the Wooden Box** by: Leon Leyson, Marilyn J. Haran

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-boy-on-the-wooden-box>

- **White Rose** by: Kip Wilson

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/white-rose>

- **The Dragon and the Stone** by: Kathryn Butler

<https://www.pluggedin.com/book-reviews/dragon-and-the-stone/>

- **A Bird, A Girl, and a Rescue** by: J.A. Myhre

<https://newgrowthpress.com/children-books/middle-school-books/a-bird-a-girl-and-a-rescue/>

- **Counting by 7's** by: Holly Goldberg Sloan

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/counting-by-7s>

Name: _____

ELA Summer Reading Project

Due Date: _____

Directions: We have been reviewing the essential elements of a story. This includes the **characters, setting, conflict, resolution, and theme**. For this project, you will choose a book you read this summer. It can be the required summer reading or something else. However, the book you choose **must** be:

- Fiction
- A novel (**no** graphic novels/comics)
- At least 150 pages
- At your grade level

There are two parts to this project. The first part is a written analysis, in which you will discuss characterization, setting, conflict, resolution, and theme. The second part is a creative reflection, in which you will choose an activity from a choice board. This project is worth **100 points**.

Part I: Written Analysis – 50 points

To get full credit, you must answer questions correctly and thoughtfully, with plenty of detail. You must write in complete sentences and provide examples from the text to support your answers. You will complete this part of the project in this packet.

1. About the Book: 5 points
2. Characters: 10 points
3. Setting: 10 points
4. Conflict: 10 points
5. Resolution: 5 points
6. Theme: 10 points

Part II: Creative Activity – 50 points

Choose **ONE** activity from the choice board on the next page. You will be graded on the following:

1. Content: 25 points
 - You followed the directions
 - You provided accurate information about the novel
 - You wrote in complete sentences
 - You have plenty of detail.
1. Neatness and Creativity: 15 points
 - You worked hard and put a lot of effort and thought into your work
 - Your project is neat and organized
1. Presentation: 10 points
 - You will present your project to the class. To get full credit for your presentation, be sure to:
 - Speak up
 - Maintain eye contact
 - Stand with good posture
 - Answer any audience questions
 - Ask questions during other student presentations

CREATIVE ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD

<p style="text-align: center;">SONG PLAYLIST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create a playlist of 5 songs for your book. State the song title and artist. -Under each song, write a short paragraph explaining how the song relates to the novel. How the song relates to the book is up to you; however, it should be something thoughtful that makes sense. -For at least 2 of the songs, provide ORIGINAL photographs or drawings to illustrate what the song is about. Do not use Google Images! -You will present to the class. You will explain what songs you chose and why. We will play one of the songs you chose for the class. It should be appropriate for school. 	<p style="text-align: center;">COLLAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create a collage with 5 pictures that relate to the book. -These pictures need to be ORIGINAL photographs or drawings; do not use Google Images! -Write a short paragraph for each picture explaining how the picture relates to the novel. -You will present this to the class. 	<p style="text-align: center;">DIARY ENTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create a diary written from the character's perspective. -Write a minimum of five paragraphs. You can write one long entry, or you can write multiple short entries. Make sure you date your entries. The dates should match the novel's time period. -Include events from the story and the character's feelings from those events. -Include some type of illustration, like a diary cover, doodles in the journal entries, etc. This should be ORIGINAL art; do not use Google Images! -You will read at least one of your entries to the class.
<p style="text-align: center;">BOOK TRAILER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create a short movie trailer (approx. 1-2 minutes) for the novel. -The book trailer should act like a movie trailer; it is meant to give you an idea of what the book is about and pique your interest about the book. -There should be music with a similar tone to the novel, with ORIGINAL images and/or digital video (do not use any Google Images/YouTube clips). -Email the video to me. Your book trailer will be shown in class. 	<p style="text-align: center;">BOOK JACKET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create a book jacket for your novel. This should include a front and back cover. It should fit over your book. -The front cover must include the title, author, and some kind of art that relates to the book. This art must be an ORIGINAL photograph or drawing; do not use Google Images! -The back cover must include a short summary of the book with 2 short reviews. <p>For example: "<i>A riveting adventure from start to finish.</i>" -Ms. Frank</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YOUR CHOICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If you have an original idea for your book project, discuss it with the teacher BEFORE you start working on the project.

About the Book

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

of pages: _____

Fiction? (Yes or no): _____

Grade level? (Yes or no): _____

Characters

Directions: Pick a character from your novel. Describe the character using **STEAL** (*Speech, Thoughts, Effects, Actions, Looks*). Please give **at least one example from the book for each section** to support your answer! This can include quotes or other descriptions. Be sure to cite the page number or numbers that you got this evidence from.

CHARACTER NAME: _____

Section 1- Speech

Section 2- Thoughts:

Section 3- Effects (how they make others think and feel):

Section 4- Actions:

Section 5- Looks:

Setting

Directions: Describe the setting. Remember to answer the following questions:

What? (*What is the place?*)

Where? (*Where is the place?*)

When? (*When does the story take place?*)

Sometimes, there is more than one setting in a story. Please take note of the most important setting. Also, please provide and explain **at least one quote from the book** that *describes* the setting! Be sure to cite the page number or numbers that you got this evidence from.

Conflict

Directions: Conflict is an important part of the plot. There are different types of conflict, including *Man vs. Man*, *Man vs. Self*, *Man vs. Nature*, *Man vs. Society*, *Man vs. Technology*, and *Man vs. Supernatural*. Please give **2 specific examples** of conflict in the novel. You must **use at least 2 different kinds of conflict**. Please give **at least one example from the book for each conflict** to support your answer! This can include quotes or other descriptions. Be sure to cite the page number or numbers that you got this evidence from.

Conflict 1: Man vs. _____

Explanation:

Conflict 2: Man vs. _____

Explanation:

[illegible]