

Dear Rising Eighth Grade Students,

During the past year, all of you have worked diligently and produced outstanding work, from your main lesson books to your independent research projects and puppet show. I am very proud of your work and I hope you are as well. You have earned the right to be called 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the leaders of the lower school!

For summer, please read three (3) books and complete the projects over the summer vacation. Choose one book from each list. You may read a fourth for extra credit. All portions of this project will be due on the first day of school. Please be prepared to present an oral presentation on the first day of school of your project.

Enjoy your summer.

Best regards,

Mrs. Josephine Russo

## List A

## List B

## List C

Pirates by Celia Rees	Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time by David Sobel	Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
Kiki Strike Inside The Shadow City by Kirsten Miller	"I am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai	Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens
Black Powder by Staton Rabin	Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac	Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë
Harry Potter and the Cursed Child JK Rowling	Number the Stars by Lois Lowry	Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Apothecary by Meloy Maile	Roll of Thunder Here My Cry by Mildred Taylor	The Time Machine by H G Wells
	The Book Thief by Markus Zusak	The Fellowship of the Rings By J.R.R. Tolkien
	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn By Betty Smith

For ea ch bo o k please write on card stock:

Your Name

Title and Author

### I. Vocabulary Words

Directions: Identify five (5) words that you did not recognize or fully know the meaning of. In a chart for, as in the example below please write the word, original sentence and word definition, and part of speech, and chapter and page it appeared. Please place this page behind your book review.

For Example:

Word	Original sentence from the novel. Underline the vocabulary word.	Definition, Part of Speech Use a dictionary to define the word. Use the same meaning that is used in the text.	Chapter and Page Number the vocabulary word is found on.
Solution	Means of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult solution	So-called <u>solutions</u> to the longitude problem had been a dime a dozen even before the act went into effect.	Chapter 1 , Page 4

- II. Book Review: Please identify the following: Theme, Setting, Main Character, Conflict, Climax, and Resolution by identifying the objects, or answering the questions below for each book. State your opinion of the book.

Theme:

A theme is the message or insight about life or human nature that a writer presents to the reader. In each book, the writers make at least one point about life or the human condition. The theme is usually not stated directly, and therefore, you will have to make an inference. One way to discover the theme of a work is to consider what you can learn from the main character. The importance of that event, stated in terms that apply to all human beings, is the theme.

Please state two (2) themes within the book with complete sentences.

1. Identify a quote to support each of the themes you have listed.
2. Write the quote and indicate the page number.
3. List an instance or character that explains your theme. Be as specific as possible. Use correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Setting:

A setting is the surroundings or environment of the book.

1. What is the setting?
2. What year(s) do the events take place?
3. What is the season?
4. Where does most of the action take place?
5. What are the economic conditions?
6. What are the customs unique to the book?

Main Character or Protagonist:

The main character or protagonist is the leading figure, the principal character, the leader of the cause, the champion.

1. Identify the main character.
2. What is his/her role in the story?
3. What is his/her physical description?
4. How does he/she act?
5. How do others interact with the character?

### Conflict:

A serious disagreement or argument, a state of mind in which a person experiences a clash of opposing feelings or needs.

1. Name the main conflict in the book.
2. Are there any other conflicts? Please describe.
3. Briefly explain the circumstances surrounding each conflict

### Climax:

The climax is the most exciting part of the story. The point of greatest intensity or force in a narrative or drama, the conclusion of a crisis, the turning point of the plot.

1. What is the point of the highest tension?
2. When do things begin to change?
3. Briefly explain how does this change the outcome of the novel?

### Resolution:

1. How is the conflict resolved?
2. Explain: be as specific as possible include character names.

### Opinion:

1. What is your opinion of the story?
2. Did you like or dislike the book?
3. Would you recommend the book to others?

III. For one (1) book please choose the following project:

- ArtifactCollection: Create a box or container that represents something unique about the plot of the book. Fill the container with at least 10 objects that represent the novel, something about the character, setting, plot, or conflict of the story. You may not use pictures, drawings, or words (objects only). On a separate piece of card stock make a list of the objects and write a paragraph for each object which describes what they symbolize and how it is significant to the plot and character of the book.
- Scrapbook: Create a scrapbook for the journey the protagonist takes in the novel. Your scrapbook should be at least 8-10 pages that clearly demonstrates you have an understanding of character, plot and setting. Include relevant pictures, decorations and captions.
- 3-DRoom – Create a character’s room in 3-D. This space should represent any part of the setting. It should include items (decorations) important or significant to the characters in the novel. Label each part of the room and why it is important. 10 items minimum. Write a statement describing the significance of the room to the plot and or characters.
- SeriesofTradingCards – Use characters or places in the novel and draw a picture of each character/place on a separate 3 x 5 card. On the back of the cards, write important information about the character or place. Include the character’s name, age, and purpose in the novel. Explain the relationship to other characters, what happens to the character, what happens in the scene, and why that scene is important? Each trading card must be colorful. Minimum of 20 trading cards.
- Comic Book – Tell the plot of the story in a comic book form. Include the. Make a cover for your comic book and an original title. 10 page minimum.

- Costume – Design costumes for the main characters. Use dolls and dress them as characters from the book. Explain who these characters are and how they fit in the story. On a separate piece of card stock include, the conflicts they face and how they are resolved.
  
- WRITE THE DIARY A MAIN CHARACTER MIGHT HAVE WRITTEN. Imagine you are the person in your book. Write a 14-day diary as if you were the main character of the book. In your daily entries include at least one illustration as well as your feelings about what is happening to you (as the main character). You may use the cover of your diary for an illustration, or you may decorate it as if it were a real diary. Your diary can have pictures that you draw. You should have a page for each diary entry, and each entry should be at least 5 sentences long.
  
- PRETEND YOU ARE A REPORTER FOR A NEWSPAPER. Based on the book that you choose, create a newspaper with four-five articles, advertisements and illustrations. The articles can be different topics. Ideas for articles include: crime, personal interest interviews, sports, weather, and international. All the stories in your newspaper will be directly related to your book. The title of the newspaper should be something appropriate to the book. You can use your personal review as an editorial in your paper. In the rest of the paper, include your required story elements along with events from the book. Your newspaper must be a minimum of two (2) pages. The design should look like a newspaper.

#### IV. For your other books:

Artistically create an advertisement poster that we can display that will encourage other students to read the book.

#### Project Details:

Each project must include the information listed below **either within the project or separately:**

- a. **Title and author**
- b. **Your name must be clearly visible on the project!**
- c. **It must be presented in FINAL format (CARD STOCK). Spelling, punctuation, and sentence and paragraph structure must be correct.**
- d. **Boarders must be included on book reviews.**
- e. **All pictures are hand drawn. No pictures may be printed from the internet.**

#### EXTRA CREDIT

For the BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE choose one of the above projects instead of the book review.

### Grading Rubric:

This is the rubric that will be used to grade your projects and assignments. Your assignment may be typed or handwritten. If you type your assignment, please use 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced. If you hand-write your paper, please use card stock. Borders are required for all pages.

### Scoring Rubric: 5 -4.5 ( 100-90)

- Extraordinarily insightful project. It is obvious that you read the entire novel and have a full understanding of the characters, plot, themes, and historical references.
- Ideas are supported by specific information from the novel.
- Project exceeds requirements in some way (creativity, or additions.)
- Flawless or nearly flawless Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, Spelling.
- Projects presentation is extraordinary: Artistically, neatness: no smudges, creases or tears in the papers.

### 4.4-4 ( 89-80)

- Insightful project. It is obvious that you read the entire novel and have a good understanding of the characters, plot, themes, and historical references.
- Most ideas are supported by specific information from the novel.
- Project meets requirements.
- Contains only a few errors in Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling.
- Projects presentation is very good: Artistically, neatness: very few



smudges, creases or tears in the papers

### 3.9—3.5 (79-70)

- Average project. It seems that you read the novel, but possibly not carefully or completely. You seem to be missing knowledge of the characters, plot, themes, and historical references.
- A few ideas are supported by information from the novel.
- Project does not meet all requirements.
- Projects presentation is good: Artistically, neatness: few smudges, creases or tears in the papers
- Contains errors in Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling.

### 3.4-3 (69-60)

- Below average project. It is obvious that you did not read the entire novel, or you did not read carefully. Knowledge of characters, plot, themes, and historical references is inaccurate or unclear.

- Ideas are not supported by information from the novel.
- Project does not meet all requirements.
- Contains several major errors in Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling.
- The project is difficult to read.
- Projects presentation is poor: Artistically, neatness: smudges, creases or tears in the papers

2.9-2 (59 – 50 )

- Very poor project. No knowledge of the novel's characters, plot, themes, and historical information is present. It is obvious that you did not read the novel, or skimmed it at the last minute.
- Ideas are not supported by information from the novel.
- Project does not meet requirements.
- Contains several major errors in Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling.
- Projects presentation is very poor: Artistically, neatness: many smudges, creases or tears in the papers