

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING -- 2017

6th Grade

Classic (pick one and complete the writing assignment)

- Summer of My German Soldier*, Bette Greene
- The Land*, Mildred Taylor
- Down the Rabbit Hole*, Peter Abrahams
- The Incident at Hawk's Hill*, Allan Eckert
- Around the World in Eighty Days*, Jules Verne

Contemporary (pick one and complete the visual assignment)

- Pinballs*, Betsy Beyers
- Maniac McGee*, Jerry Spinelli
- Heat*, Mike Lupica
- Running out of Time*, Margaret Haddix
- Crispin*, Avi

7th Grade

Classic (pick one and complete the writing assignment)

- National Velvet*, Enid Bagnold
- Johnny Tremain*, Esther Forbes
- The Magician's Nephew*, C.S. Lewis
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Elizabeth Speare
- A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeline L'Engle

Contemporary (pick one and complete the visual assignment)

- Fever 1793*, Laurie Anderson
- Candyfloss*, Jacqueline Wilson
- Joey Pigza Swallows the Key*, Jack Gantos
- The Batboy*, Mike Lupica
- Jacob Have I Loved*, Katherine Paterson

8th Grade

Classic (pick one and complete the writing assignment)

- Life of Pi*, Yann Martel
- The Trojan War*, Olivia Coolidge
- The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton
- The Road to Memphis*, Mildred Taylor (sequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*)
- The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway

Contemporary (pick one and complete the visual assignment)

- The Giver*, Lois Lowery
- Ask Me No Questions*, Marina Budhos
- The Skin I'm In*, Sharon Flake
- Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card
- The Shadow Thieves*, Anne Ursu

REQUIREMENTS

1. Students should pick one book from the classic list and one book from the contemporary list for their **upcoming** grade level.
2. **Classic Book:** Complete the Writing Assignment (details on back of this paper)
3. **Contemporary Book:** Complete the Visual Assignment (details on back of this paper)
4. Both books should be read and projects completed by the first day of school.
5. This list is also available at www.bishopwalsh.org

Classic Book -- Writing Assignment (Please Type)

Setting

- When and where does the book take place? Be sure to describe the time and place in detail. **(3-4 sentence paragraph)**

Characters

- In **two or three sentences each**, identify at least three major characters in the novel. With which character did you most identify and why? **(2-3 sentence response)**

Narrator

- Describe the narrator. Is it a first or third person narrator? How can you tell? **(3-4 sentence paragraph)**

Plot

- Give a brief plot summary of the book. Do not attempt to summarize the entire book, but instead provide the reader with a good sense of what happens in the book. Which event is the climax (highest point) of the plot? Explain. **(4-5 sentence paragraph)**

Theme

- What is the theme of the book? The theme is the lesson that the author wishes to teach to his or her reader. Themes are not always stated out right, so you'll have to do some critical thinking and reflecting to determine the theme. Answer these questions when trying to determine theme: What ideas about the world is the author trying to express to his or her readers? What did you learn about your own life from reading this book? **(5-6 sentence paragraph)**

Contemporary Book -- Visual Assignment (Choose either Option 1 or Option 2)

Option 1: Draw a Symbol

Draw, color, and cut out from poster board a single symbol that represents the **theme** of the novel. You will be asked to present this symbol, so you need to be able to explain why you chose it and how it represents the theme of the novel.

Option 2: Creating a technology product

Using one of the following websites, create a technology product of your own design that explores the theme of the novel. Email a link to your product to the Language Arts teacher you will have in the **upcoming** year.

Animoto – www.animoto.com

Prezi – www.prezi.com

Go Animate – www.goanimate.com

Need help getting started?

Crash Course Literature – “How and Why We Read.”

Young Adult author John Green explains how to read literature and why reading is so important. (7 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>

mistersoto411 – “How to Find a Theme”

A literature teacher explains what is (and isn't) a theme in a novel. Also includes a good explanation of how to find a theme and how to write about it. (11 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4qME64SkxM>