

Summer 2019

Dear Rising Eighth Graders,

The summer awaits you, and so do a handful of books that we have chosen to enrich and supplement your days of sun and fun. Even if you are sitting on the beach with sand massaging the crevices of your toes, engage with your book *actively*. Mark up the pages with your highlights, circling, underlines, and brackets. Jot your notes, questions, takeaways, and reactions in the margins. Look up definitions for unfamiliar words and scribble them down. Stick post-its here and there to draw you back to passages you have flagged. Be curious! Ask yourself, *Why is this character making these choices? What is the lesson the author is conveying here? Which words did I find striking?* Chances are, if you simply ask these questions, you are performing the type of analysis that will be required of you next year.

Here is your summer assignment:

- **Read two (2) books from the provided list.**
- **Create one (1) Book Collage.** I recommend doing so for the book you preferred of the two. A Book Collage is a visual and creative representation of key ideas from a text using illustrations, words, and quotations. More detailed instructions are enclosed. Be prepared to discuss your Book Collage the first day of school and to do some in-class writing about the texts. Take pride in your Book Collage, too; it will decorate our classroom!

I so look forward to welcoming you to 8th grade in person. Until then, enjoy yourselves and your reading this summer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [elisabeth.levin@gbwl.org](mailto:elisabeth.levin@gbwl.org).

Happy reading!

Ms. Levin

# BOOK COLLAGE

A Book Collage is a visual and creative representation of key ideas from a text using illustrations, doodled words, and quotations. This project is an opportunity to showcase your critical thinking about a text as well as your creativity and effort. The front will be the creative side, and the back will provide some explanation. Be deliberate and detailed as you write and draw, taking care to include the elements below.

## ON THE FRONT

- ❑ **Border:** Represent around the border the key character(s) from the text and how she/he/they change.

💡 Note: When evaluating a character's growth (or deterioration!), compare her/his beliefs and personality traits from the beginning to the end of the story. There will almost certainly be a difference. Sometimes, characters change externally in appearance as they change within. Be on the lookout for that, too.

- ❑ **Top left box:** Represent in this panel an important symbol from the story.

💡 Note: A *symbol* is something which stands for something else. For example, a lightbulb can be a symbol for an idea.

- ❑ **Top right box:** Represent in this panel the significance of the setting.

💡 Note: *Setting* is the context or backdrop of a story. You likely know it as *time* and *place*. Did you know it also includes the *social environment* of a story? The people, culture, customs, rules/laws, pressures, and expectations which shape a character's world count as well. For an added challenge, consider these as you complete this panel. We'll be discussing this aspect of setting in class, so if you would prefer to focus only on *time* and *place* for now, that will suffice.

- ❑ **Middle strip:** Represent in this panel a *theme* from the story. Write it out in words, too.

💡 Note: A *theme* is a life lesson or overall message of the text. There might be a few themes within a single book, and depending who you ask, each theme might be worded differently. For instance, one person might say that *Love overcomes all obstacles* is a theme, while another might say that it is *Love gives us strength*; both could very well be correct. Also, a theme is a full sentence, not just a single word. In other words, *Love overcomes all obstacles* or *Love gives us strength* are themes. The single word *Love* is not.

- ❑ **Bottom box:** Represent here a connection between the theme and another book, movie, song, piece of art, historical event, current event, or real-life experience (yours or someone else's).

- ❑ **Pick a panel, any panel:** Include at least two quotations throughout your panel to help you represent any of the information above. You get to choose which panel(s) to put them in. Remember to include the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

## ON THE BACK

On the back, provide written captions (2-5 sentences) for the choices you made for each panel on the front. What did you draw/write/represent, and why? Assume that the audience has not read your book in your explanations. You are welcome to type this or write it by hand. If you do so on a separate piece of paper, tape it to the back. Proofread vigorously. Oh, and be careful of using marker or Sharpie directly on the backside of your collage lest it bleed through.

## SAMPLE


