



Summer Reading



Students entering eighth grade will read a total of four books as part of the summer reading requirement. They should read two books which they have chosen from the recommended list below. They should select one book of their own free choice, although they may choose another from the list, if they wish. Finally, all students should also read the required novel detailed below, which they should bring in to school with them when they return in September. There is a writing requirement for three out of these four choices, as outlined in the instructions below.

1.) Choose two books to read from the following list:

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

1.) For the first book which you selected from the recommended list, answer the following question on notebook paper and in cursive handwriting:

In a five, or more, paragraph essay, choose one main character from the book and analyze him/her, giving your own independent views on the following questions. What kind of traits does he/she have? Did he/she change throughout the course of the book? Does your chosen character affect the plot, and if so, how?

2.) For the second book selected from the list, answer the following question using either cursive handwriting or by typing:

In a five paragraph essay, explain the book's dominant theme, or message. What did this book teach you about the theme? Give specific examples.

3. For the book of your own choice, answer the following question, which may be handwritten or typed:

Write an alternative ending for your novel. You may either change the original ending, or continue on from where the final chapter finished. You may want to write more than five paragraphs, but do not write more than three pages, maximum.

3.) Read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. You may purchase any edition and it is readily available to purchase online or in any book store. There is no written component for this novel at this stage, but it is long, and will take some time to read. Be prepared to bring your copy into school with you, and to discuss it in the first week of school.