

May 13, 2020

Dear Students,

Below you will find the requirements for the 8th grade summer reading program. The program is designed to encourage and inspire reading, as well as promote a consistent sense of scholastic engagement over the summer break. Also below, you will find a link to an extensive list of book titles that are acceptable summer reading books for rising 8th graders. You will need to choose **TWO** of these books and complete them over the summer break. As you are reading, I encourage you to complete a reading log for each of your books (see attached), which will then help you write your book summary. *You will need to write ONE summary for EACH book. Your summaries need to include discussions of the book's setting, themes, major characters, plot analysis, any literary devices used, and your personal opinions of the book. Summaries should be 5 paragraphs each.* They can be submitted via email anytime over the summer break (send to: mgriffeth@millsprings.org) but are officially due on the first day of school.

Link to Summer Reading Options:

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/8th-grade-summer-reading>

As you approach summer reading, the important thing for you to remember is that reading is fun! Familiarizing yourself with a multitude of texts will produce various academic and intellectual benefits. The most significant advantage of reading is that the more one reads, the more deeply one can enjoy one of the enduring pleasures of civilized men and women. We hope that you will take summer reading seriously, not because reading is work, but because the habit of reading good books will enrich your life experience and open up new possibilities for enjoyment throughout your life.

Have a wonderful summer. Onwards . . .

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Purpose of summer reading:

Reading is a skill that must be practiced. The more one reads, the better one reads. A broad range of reading (fiction, nonfiction, autobiographies, poetry, plays, etc.) enhances vocabulary and general knowledge more effectively than anything else in education. Our goal for the student and parent is that reading should be a good experience – not a hassle. In order to function independently, a student must develop good reading habits. Students need to be responsible for completing the reading during the summer. We firmly believe that all students must develop academic independence and the responsibility that accompanies such independence. If students need additional support and structure for summer reading success, please email MG at mgriffeth@millsprings.org.

Do not wait until the last minute to take care of this responsibility. Let me know if you need help coming up with a reading plan/schedule.

Requirements of summer reading:

Students are required to read a minimum of TWO books and write summaries for each book. I encourage you to read more! Students will receive a reminder email in late July. This will be the only reminder. Students will need to complete and turn in their book summaries to MG on the first day of school.

TIPS FOR DEVELOPING GOOD READING HABITS

- Learn while you read – the one does not exclude the other
- Read in small bites – 10 minutes on the way to and from school, 15 minutes before going to sleep, and 10 minutes waiting for friends to pick you up. That totals 45 minutes – a good sized daily reading total.
- Join a book discussion group at your school or public library, or online.
- Realize your reading speed increases the more you read.
- Realize that time goes faster when you are reading for the fun of it.
- Read what you are passionate about.
- Find the right book for you.
- Write about what you read as soon as you finish reading it.
- Realize reading for the fun of it is a good way to relax.
- Talk about your reading with family and friends.

Summer Reading Log (8th grade):

Print as many of these as you need. You do not need to submit your reading logs, only the summaries!

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Setting: _____

Theme(s): _____

Discussion of Major Characters (include physical, social, emotional characteristics if possible): _____

Plot analysis (Summarize the story. Specifically identify the conflict, climax, and resolution): _____
