

Incoming Eighth Grade Summer Assignment

The assignment may be done either in docs or on paper. If you type it, please use font 14 and include a full heading. If you write it out, please keep it NEAT. If you have had issues with docs in the past, for example, if the file you submit is empty, etc., consider printing out the work. An empty file is considered work not done.

Docs may be emailed to me beginning August 1. Hard copies will be due upon our return.

This summer you are asked to read Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer and complete a few assignments. Use the “Annotating a text” information to guide you as you read.

1. Summarize the story. Remember that a summary is written in the present tense and is completely objective. Your summary should include highlights of key character and important details about the story.
2. Create a vocabulary list as you read. Write down any word you do not know. Use context clues to help you develop a definition for the word. Write that down. Then look up the word and provide the dictionary definition. Be sure to include its part of speech. Your list should include no fewer than 15 words.
3. Respond to this prompt. Life is full of hurdles and bumps, and growing up is not always easy. Analyze Jenna’s life. What obstacles did she face, and how did overcoming them mold her into the young adult she became? Provide text evidence to support your claim.

Please remember that your work is a reflection of who you are.

Annotating a Text

1. Pick up a pencil, a pen, or a post-it.
2. Read everything at least twice.

The first time, read quickly to get a sense of what the text is about. The second and subsequent times read carefully. Mark anything that you think is: A. confusing, B. interesting C. surprising, or D. important Mark anything that is unfamiliar and keep going.

3. Begin to annotate.

A. Circle, underline, or stick on a post-it for important ideas and explain their significance. B. Mark repetitions or rhetorical signals. C. Circle confusing words or phrases. Define from context or dictionary if possible. D. Note passages that seem inconsistent. E. Note passages that generate a strong positive or negative response.

4. Write questions where you made annotations. These questions can be for the instructor to answer, for the class to discuss, for you to use in future writing assignments, or for you to keep as a reminder of what you were thinking.

5. Think about the connections between this text and other texts you have read, information from other classes, and personal experiences.