Stafford Middle School

Honors English 8

Summer Reading Assignment

This summer, you will choose **one** of the novels listed below to read and complete a two-part assignment for the 2025 first six weeks of eighth grade. Please make sure to **review all parts of the assignment before you start reading** so you'll know what to look for as you go.

- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *The Outsiders* by S.E Hinton
- *Homecoming* by Cynthia Voight

We recommend purchasing your own copy of the book (from places like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Half Price Books, or other booksellers) so you can highlight or take notes as you read. If that's not possible, feel free to borrow a copy from your local public library, such as the Houston Public Library or Home | Fort Bend County Libraries to check out a copy.

Part 1: Minor Assignments – **Due Monday, August 18, 2025**

1. **Novel Menu Worksheet**
    a. Choose one chapter from your book and complete the Novel Menu Worksheet for that chapter. Use the attached template.
2. **Dialectical Journal**
    a. Complete a journal with **at least 5 entries** (rows). Use the attached template.

Both assignments must be **completed and submitted together** by August 18.

Part 2: ***Major Assignment – Due Monday, August 25, 2025***

Choose **ONE** of the following project options to showcase your understanding of the novel:

- **Create a video review** of the book.
- **Turn the book into a graphic novel or comic book.**
- **Illustrate 5 key scenes or characters** from the book

If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Williams Gabrielle.Williams@staffordmsd.org. Please include your first and last name in your email and put "Honors English 8 Summer Reading Assignment Question" in the subject line.

Part 1:

1. Dialectical Journal

- Directions: You will fill out 5 rows for your chosen novel. Make sure that you use complete sentences when writing your response. If your penmanship is poor, feel free to input your information electronically.
- In the first column: Write down a direct quote from the text.
- In the second column: cite the page
- In the third column: Explain why you selected this quotation. Why is the quotation significant? What do you find confusing? What are your thoughts?
- Dialectical Journal Directions (video link)
- Dialectical Journal

2. 🕮 Novel Menu Worksheet

b. Choose one chapter from your book and complete the Novel Menu Worksheet for that chapter. Use the attached template.

ComicStripRubric

Part 2:

Choose **ONE** of the following project options to showcase your understanding of the novel:

- **Turn the book into a graphic novel or comic book.**
- **Illustrate 5 key scenes or characters from the book**

Using the comic-strip-planningsheet to get started and following the ComicStripRubric

Or **Create a video review** of the book.

8th Grade Video Book Review Rubric: Summer Reading Project

Criteria	5 - Excellent	4 - Proficient	3 - Satisfactory	2 - Needs Improvement	1 - Incomplete/Unsatisfactory
Content Accuracy & Understanding	Provides a clear, detailed summary of the book, including protagonist(s), plot, conflict, and resolution. Demonstrates deep understanding of themes and ideas.	Provides an accurate summary with most key elements (protagonist(s), plot, conflict). Mentions themes with some explanation.	Provides a basic summary, but some essential elements are missing or unclear. Mentions themes but with limited understanding.	Summary is incomplete or unclear; key elements missing; themes are not identified or misunderstood.	Does not provide a summary or show no understanding of the book's content or themes.
Personal Connection & Motivation	Clearly explains why the book was chosen, including references to book bloggers or recommendations. Share thoughtful subjective opinions about the story.	Explains why the book was chosen with some detail; mentions recommendation source if applicable. Give your opinion about the story.	Mentions why the book was chosen but explanation lacks detail or clarity; basic opinion shared.	Gives little or unclear explanation of book choice; opinion about story is vague or missing.	Does not explain book choice or opinion.

Analysis of Themes & Audience	Insightfully discusses major themes and ideas explored in the book. Clearly identifies the target audience and who would enjoy the book.	Discusses themes and ideas with insight. Identifies the target audience with clarity.	Mentions themes but lacks depth; identifies target audience generally.	Themes and audience are mentioned but are unclear or inaccurate.	Does not discuss themes or target audience.
Recommendation & Justification	Provides a strong, clear recommendation with reasons why others should or should not read the book.	Provides a recommendation with reasons, though some may lack clarity or detail.	Gives a recommendation but lacks clear justification.	Recommendation is unclear or weakly supported.	No recommendation or justification provided.
Video Presentation & Length	Video is 5-10 minutes long, well-organized, engaging, with clear audio and visuals. Student speaks clearly and confidently.	Video meets length requirement, organized and mostly clear. Audio and visuals are good.	Video is slightly under/over time, somewhat organized. Audio or visuals have minor issues.	Video is too short/long, disorganized, or has poor audio/visual quality.	Video is missing, too short, or has major audio/visual issues making it hard to understand.