

Davidson Fine Arts Summer Reading Assignment



Teacher	Dr. Heggs
Grade Level	Sixth Grade
Subject	English Language Arts
School Term	2026-2027
Assignment Due Date	Summer Reading Assignment will be due <u>the first day of school</u> . It will count as a <u>minor grade</u> .

Welcome to Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School! As you prepare to embark upon your middle school career, I would like to remind you of something incredibly powerful—something that can unlock doors, spark imagination, and shape your future: reading. Reading is more than just an assignment to complete for school or even a way to pass time. It is a critical skill that helps you grow in every area of your life. Through books, you can travel to different parts of the world, explore new ideas, and see life from other people’s perspectives—all without ever leaving your seat. Reading improves your vocabulary, strengthens your writing, and teaches you how to think critically and creatively.

Supply List:

Pencils	Pens (black and blue)	Loose-leaf notebook paper
Five dividers	Highlighters	Earbuds (no bluetooth connection)

Summer Reading Assignment:

Below are the expectations for reading the novel, Ninth Ward, by Dr. Jewell Parker Rhodes.

Goal	Expectation
Reading for Comprehension	Read the novel closely for narrative techniques, such as plot, characters, theme, conflict, and settings.
Reading for Poetic Techniques	Read the novel closely to identify and explain the literal meaning of the poetic techniques, such as imagery, personification, and simile, the author chose to utilize in her writing.

Along with your physical copy of the required summer reading, please be sure to bring your completed and printed assignment (see pages one-five) to class on the first day of school. The assignment will count as a minor grade. In addition, a novel test will be administered during the second week of school.

Assignment Requirements:

- **Part One:** Read the following novel, Ninth Ward, by Dr. Jewell Parker Rhodes.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Ninth-Ward-Jewell-Parker-Rhodes/dp/0316043087>
- **Part Two:** Complete the worksheet (pages 1-2) on identifying poetic techniques in the novel, Ninth Ward.
- **Part Three:** Using the worksheet provided (page 3), create cinquain poems (see example) about Laneshia and Mama Ya-Ya, two of the main characters in Ninth Ward.
- **Part Four:** Using the worksheet provided (page 4-5), write a two-paragraph book review of the novel, Ninth Ward.
- **Part Five:** Please expect a novel test on Ninth Ward, by Dr. Jewell Parker Rhodes, during the second week of school.

Plagiarism and using AI to create your work are NOT allowed, and all assignments must be your own original work.

Identifying Poetic Techniques



A. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter One is “*Her head tilts; her body relaxes in the chair like a balloon losing air.*” In this example, what is her body being compared to?

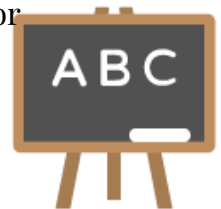
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Invent your own similes comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) being scared

b) the taste of a spicy soup

B. Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here is such an example from Chapter One: “*She wears white angel wings.”*”



Using your imagination, create your own example of alliteration from the following topic. Your example must contain a minimum of three words.

Topic: A Tragic Moment.

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C. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. The following is an example from Chapter One: *Lace curtains hang limp over the two front windows.*

Describe how the lace curtains are personified in this sentence.

Create your own example of personification.

Cinquain Poems



A **cinquain** poem has five lines and most often does not rhyme. After reading **Ninth Ward**, write two cinquain poems about both **Lanesha** and **Mama Ya-Ya**.

<p>Line 1: One-word topic. Line 2: Two vivid adjectives that describe the topic. Line 3: Three interesting -ing action verbs. Line 4: Four-word phrase that describes the topic. Line 5: Another noun that tells about your topic.</p>	<p><i>Johnny Appleseed</i> <i>Kind, brave</i> <i>Planting, helping, sharing</i> <i>He plants apple trees</i> <i>Friend</i></p>
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Lanesha

Mama Ya-Ya
