

DFA Summer Reading Assignment



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Grade level	8 th Grade
Subject	English Language Arts
School year	2026-2027

Welcome!

- Greetings to all incoming 8th graders! I am very excited to meet you all and have you in my class for the 2026-2027 school year! This year, we will begin to tackle the innerworkings of literary analysis and all it entails. Of course, before one can learn to run, one must learn to walk. Therefore, for your summer reading assignment, you will read “The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander. **School begins on Thursday, August 6th, therefore, your work will be due Monday, August 10th!**

Supplies

- A few items you will need on the first day of school are:
 - 1.5inch binder with six dividers
 - Pens/Pencils/Highlighters
 - Loose leaf paper
 - Optional: A copy of “The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander

Summer Reading Assignment

Below are the expectations for reading “The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander.

Goal	Expectation
Reading Comprehension	Read the book closely for narrative techniques such as plot, character, theme, conflict, and settings.
Reading for Poetic Structure and Techniques	Read the book closely to identify why the author may have used techniques, such as irony or rhythm, as well as structures, such as rhyme scheme or meter. Be sure to identify and analyze figurative language!
Complete the required handouts and short writing assignment.	Choose 1 poem from the book to complete the guided reading of a poem. Find various examples of figurative language and imagery from a variety of poems found in the novel. Write a short poem in response to your chosen poem for the guided reading poem worksheets.

Assignment Expectations

1. **Read the book.** Ensure you have read the entire book. There will be a test shortly after we return to school in August.
 2. **Choose a poem to analyze.** The entire book consists of poetry. Choose ONE to complete the “Guided Reading of a Poem” worksheets for. Use the provided sample in the poetry notes to help you. Then, write a short poem in response to your chosen poem. Write the poem as if you plan to give it to the speaker of the chosen poem.
 3. **Complete the “Imagery” worksheet.** Read the book and provide several examples of figurative language and imagery from the text. Use the provided sample in the poetry notes to help you.
 4. **Do your work independently.** It is okay to seek outside help, but ensure your work is your own.
 5. **Provide citations.** When using direct quotes or paraphrased texts, use a parenthetical citation at the end of the quotation with the authors last name and the page number.
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Relevant QR Codes

Use the following QR codes to access online PDFs of the book, relevant notes, and worksheets. The worksheets and notes can be printed as needed.

“The Crossover” PDF Book	Poetry Notes	Worksheets
		