

Summer Reading Grade 8 2026-2027

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely

Rising 8th graders are required to read the novel *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Students should prepare to discuss and write about this text during the first few weeks of school by annotating as they read.

Think about and annotate for the roles of **complicity** and **complacency** in our society and in the context of *All American Boys*:

- **Complicity:** Helping with or being part of a wrongdoing. You are actively involved in the "crime," even if you aren't the leader.
 - **Example:** Your friend decides to spray-paint a school wall, and you agree to stand at the end of the hall to keep watch for teachers. Because you helped them break the rules, you are **complicit**.
- **Complacency:** Doing nothing about a problem because it doesn't affect you or you feel too comfortable to care. You aren't causing the problem, but your silence allows it to continue.
 - **Example:** You see a classmate getting picked on in the cafeteria. You don't say anything or tell a teacher because you aren't the one being bullied and you don't want to make things awkward. By staying silent, you let the bullying happen and are **complacent**.

As you read:

- Mark passages that connect to the ideas of complicity and complacency.
- For each passage you mark, add a thought:
 - A reaction to what is happening.
 - A theory about why a character chose a particular action.
 - A prediction about the consequences of that action.
 - A text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world connection.
 - A thought about why the author chose particular words or told the story in a certain way.

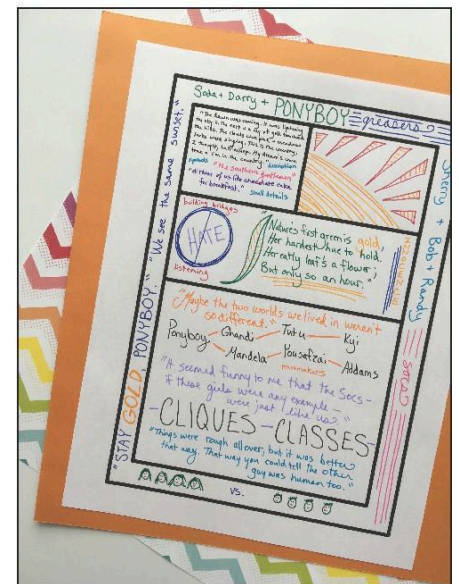
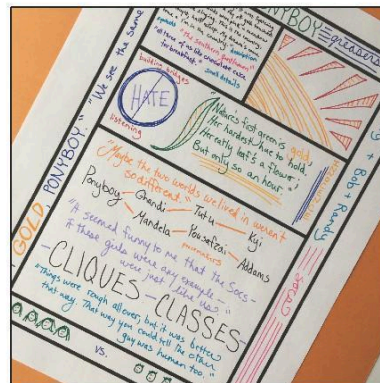
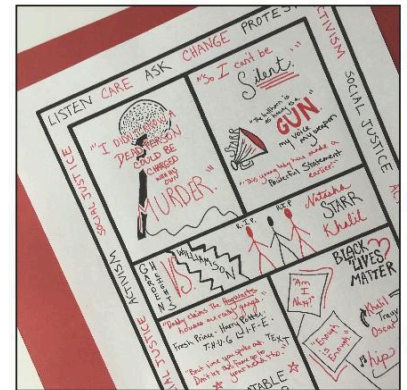
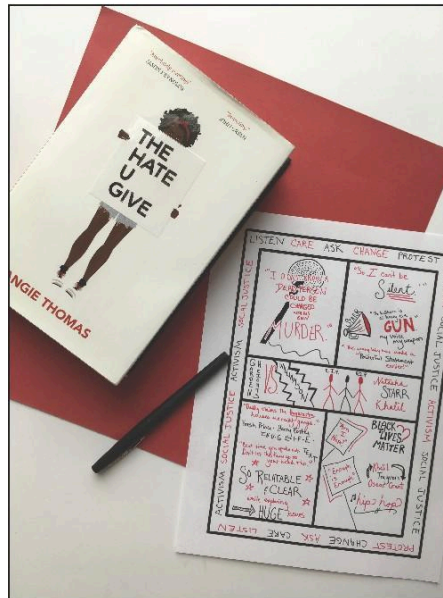
When you finish reading & annotating, complete a one-pager assignment before the first day of school.

A one pager is a way to visually share key ideas and information from what you have learned. When you create a one-pager, you are trying to use both visual symbols and important words to clearly and concisely share your most important takeaways with someone else. [Click here](#) for a printable template.

Here's what it must include:

- ❑ A border which represents the key themes of the book.
- ❑ An image in the upper left hand corner with a quotation woven into or around it. This image should somehow represent what you consider to be the most important symbol in the text so far.
- ❑ Images and/or doodled words in the upper right hand corner that represent the key characters from the text and perhaps how they are changing.
- ❑ Images and quotations in the lower left hand corner that show the author's style of writing, and the power of the language that is used.
- ❑ Images and/or words in the bottom right hand corner that show connections between the themes and ideas in the writing and what is going on in the world today.

Examples



- ❑ Three important quotations from the text.
- ❑ Words and/or images that show the significance of the setting in some way.
- ❑ Use of color that represents the symbols, themes, and/or mood of the book.

You may also add other symbols, drawings, and words that represent the reading as you wish.

