

8th Grade Summer Reading

Over the summer, all students rising into 8th grade are required to read at least two books. For the most part, just enjoy the reading! That's what is most important.

BOOK #1: Book Club Book

The entire class will read Schooled by Gordon Korman. During and after reading, take some brief notes on index cards. These cards will be your own personal notes to help you remember the story. The cards will be due the first day of school. Book discussions and projects will be assigned when school begins. See attached sheet for more details.

BOOK #2: Choice Book

Choose one book from the attached list, and write a friendly letter to your teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be due on the first day of school. See attached sheet for more details.

8th Grade Book Club Book

RATIONALE: The entire class will read the Book Club Book over the summer and discuss the novel when we return to school.

BOOK: Schooled by Gordon Korman

ASSIGNMENT: Create an index card for each of the literary elements below. Each card for the book should include:

- * Title and author
- * Genre - type of book (for example: mystery, historical fiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, adventure, etc.)
- * Who - main characters
- * What - short summary of the story
- * When - time period of the story
- * Where - setting of the story
- * Theme or Lesson Learned from the story
- * Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.

DUE DATE: First Day of School- August 13th!

GRADING: This completion of the note cards will count as one Literature homework grade (50 points). Students will be graded on literary analysis and their ability to follow the directions above.

8th Grade Choice Book

RATIONALE: In 8th grade, our literary focus will be HISTORICAL FICTION and CLASSICS. This year in class we will read *Romeo and Juliet*, To Kill a Mockingbird, Night, and a variety of short stories.

BOOK: Students must choose one historical fiction novel from the list below.

If your student needs help finding a book, it is suggested you visit your public library or purchase your own copy. Please don't hesitate to contact Miss Willson at Louisa.willson@ctk.org.

ASSIGNMENT: Enjoy your book! When you are finished reading, write a friendly letter to your teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be due on the first day of school. It may be typed or handwritten, but handwriting should be neat and legible. The letter should reflect the student's best effort.

Your one-page letter should include the following:

* 1st paragraph: A short introduction, including your name, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book.

* 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book, a description of one or two of the main characters, the setting and historical time period, and a summary of the story.

* 3rd paragraph: State the theme or lesson you learned from the book. Also give your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.

DUE DATE: First Day of School- August 13th!

GRADING: This assignment will count as one Literature quiz grade (100 points). Students will be graded on literary analysis and their ability to follow the directions above.

8th Grade Historical Fiction Novels

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

The story of a young boy, his family, and his neighbors who live in Illinois during the Civil War period.

Bull Run by Paul Fleischman

Northerners, Southerners, generals, messengers, and young boys and girls describe the glory, horror, thrill, and disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Bud, a ten-year old boy growing up in the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man believed to be his father.

Burying the Sun by Gloria Whelan

In Leningrad in 1941 during World War II, fourteen-year-old Georgi vows to help his family and his city during the terrible battles between Russia and Germany.

The Captive by Scott O'Dell

A Jesuit seminarian witnesses the mistreatment of the Mayan Indians during a Spanish expedition to the New World.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave a life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a year of active duty in Vietnam.

Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1763, sixteen-year-old Matilda learns about perseverance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Girl in Blue by Ann Rinaldi

To escape an abusive father and arranged marriage, Sarah, dressed as a boy, leaves her home to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse

A young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences in Belgium.

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Collier

The Meeker family experiences tragedy when one of their sons joins the rebel forces during the American Revolution.

A Night to Remember by Walter Lord

A retelling of the legendary disaster of the Titanic, as told by survivors.

NightJohn by Gary Paulsen

Sarny's life as a slave becomes more dangerous when a newly-arrived slave teaches her how to read.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parent's death.

Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene

A 12-year old Jewish girl in Arkansas shelters an escaped German prisoner of war.

Witness by Karen Hesse

A series of poems that express the views of a young black girl and a Jewish girl during the 1920s during the rise of the Ku Klux Klan.