

Middle School Summer Reading

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote growth in knowledge and critical thinking skills during the summer.
- To strengthen and maintain reading skills.
- To expose students to different literature types which will be studied during the year.
- To encourage a lifelong love and habit of reading.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will select the novel from their corresponding grade, read it, complete the magazine project and when they return to school, they will take a comprehension assessment. The score will be accounted for in their 1st quarter grade. The magazine project will also be turned in on the first day of school to the English teacher.

TIPS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT:

- Read the instructions before reading the book.
- Handwrite neatly or type on a computer and print. You can only make a first impression once.
- Write all responses in complete sentences.
- Bring to class on the first day of school.
- Include your first name, last name, and grade level at the top of your assignment.

BOOK SELECTION

Incoming 6th Graders

Holes by Louis Sachar: As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which is attributed to a curse, Stanley is sent to a terrible correctional camp in the Texas desert.

Incoming 7th Graders

The Red Umbrella by Christina Diaz: The Red Umbrella is a moving tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution.

Incoming 8th Graders

Night by Elie Weasel: Night is a 1960 memoir by Elie Wiesel based on his Holocaust experiences with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, toward the end of the Second World War in Europe.

PROJECT

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Select a main character that you would like to interview for *People Magazine*.
2. You will be creating a magazine like booklet. Your magazine should have 3-4 pages.
3. The cover page of magazine should include the name of the magazine, the name of the character that is being interviewed, a picture/drawing of the character being interviewed, and the name of the person who is doing the interviewing (you). The cover page is not included in the 3-4 pages. *Think outside the box* in your cover page creation.
4. Your interview should consist of 10-15 questions. Questions should be open ended, not closed ended. Closed ended questions are yes or no questions. People Magazine wants questions that require a good explanation of ideas, thoughts, motivations, actions, choices, etc.

Example of a closed-ended question: Do you like peanut butter? The question can be answered with yes or no. It is not a good question because it does not explain ideas, thoughts, motives, actions, choices, etc.

Example of a good question (open ended): Liesel, what did you think of Max Vanderburg? What were some of your experiences with Max? Why were these your favorite experiences? Why did you run away from home? What is your family life like? How did you escape from the police?

5. Your answers should be well developed and thoughtful, should make sense with the story, and should be about a paragraph long. Answers should have specific details from the story. Don't make up information.
6. Include pictures/drawings of your character at the interview. Be creative with the pictures/drawings. Get pictures of the character at home, at work, with his/her family, and/or at places he/she likes. (at least 2 pictures).
7. Fonts for titles should be bigger than the interview font. Interview font should be 12-14 size font and must be readable.
8. Show your knowledge of the character as well as being creative with the assignment.

GRADING

Projects will be graded utilizing a rubric with 3 categories including cover page, interview questions, and pages of the magazine. There will be a four-tiered, scale ranging from 0-25 in each category designed to measure if the project components exceed expectations, meet expectations, need improvement, or are not present.