



Dear Incoming 2019-2020 8th Graders and Parents,

I am delighted to present the summer reading list for the 2019 – 2020 school year. This summer's selections include books that span a variety of interests and reading levels. The following two books are mandatory and will be read by the entire class;

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee a 281page novel.

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic.

The Outsiders, by S. E. Hinton 180 pages

The Outsiders is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.

Mandatory book Assignment Part 1:

Complete the graphic organizer for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Using the organizer as an outline, write an essay by responding to the prompts. Paper length (minimum four strong paragraphs, minimum 250 words). Essay Writing Expectations

- Write as well as you can with minimal spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.
- Make sure your sentences flow from one to the next in a way that makes sense.
- Use details
- Use your own voice (your way of expressing yourself) as a reader, writer, and artist.
- Use all your own words. Any copying from the Internet or another source is plagiarism and earns an automatic zero on the assignment.
- type your essay:
 - ... Use 12 point Times New Roman or Arial (regular, no bold)
 - ... 1 inch margins
 - ... Double line-spacing
 - ... Indent paragraphs with one tab; do not skip lines between paragraphs
 - ... Full name and Grade in the upper left corner.
 - ... Title centered

Student's Name (first and last) _____

Title and Author of Book _____

Organizer for Summer Assignment (to be submitted with essay)

Plot	List the major events of the story
Setting	Where and when does it occur?
Characters	List the major and minor characters that are important to the story; add notes about them
Conflict	What is the main problem that must be resolved? How is it resolved?
Theme	What is the author trying to say about the world or about life?

The Outsiders - Writing Assignment 2:
(Typed, Font -Times New Roman 12pt double spaced)

Additional prompts to help you with your papers

After you read your book, respond to the following questions. Each response should be at least a thoughtful, detailed (typed) paragraph. Be Prepared to verbally share your responses.

1. What interested you and continued to hold your attention?
2. To which parts of the book did you have a strong emotional reaction? Why?
3. What were the best scenes in this book? Why?
4. What connections do you see between this book and your life, or to the world around you?

Challenge Question:

Write a sentence that names the central problem that the characters in your book face. Next, write three – five sentences that reflect on parts of the story that pertain to this problem. For the concluding sentence, write a sentence that states what this story teaches about this problem.

Suggestions for writing your essays:

Do not wait until August to begin reading and writing; Brainstorm and take notes before writing; Discuss your ideas and share your essay with several people (family and friends); make any recommended changes.

Remember, when you return in the fall, you will be expected to hand in your assignment and share your summer reading with other members of the class. Additionally, these assignments will be a part of your 1 trimester reading, writing, speaking and listening grades. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding summer reading. I look forward to working with you in the 2019-2020 school year, and I wish you a safe, restful summer.

God Bless,

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