

Middle School Summer Reading 2015

If you have any questions at all regarding the assignment, please feel free to contact me at bethtures@lagrangeacademy.org

Requirement #1 – Read one (1) or more books

You are required to read **1 or more** books by the first day of class. The total number of pages read must exceed 300 pages. You may read one book that exceeds 300 pages or you may read multiple books that add up to 300 or more pages. You may not reread books for this assignment. Suggestion: Read one book in June and one in July. Use a calendar to determine the number of pages you'll read each day or week, and then stick to your plan.

Choosing the right books for you

Not all books are appropriate for all readers. To read descriptions and reviews of all the books, go to www.goodreads.com/book/explore. If you are unhappy with your choice, feel free to make another selection from the list provided. Do not feel like you have to finish a book you hate. If it's not good enough, put it down and try again.

Please note that some books may have bad language, or mature subject matter. I suggest that parents should approve the summer reading books chosen by their children.

Do not assume that this requirement can be met by only watching a movie based on a book. Movies often vary from the actual book and you will not be able to complete your assignment using this method.

Requirement #2 – Complete note-taking sheets for all books

On the first day of school, submit a note-taking sheet for each book. Follow the directions on the note-taking sheet. These note-taking sheets will not be accepted after Friday of the first full week. These note-taking sheets **WILL** be graded. **If for some reason, you cannot finish this your notes, hand in the best work of which you are capable. Do not start the year with a zero on a book which you have actually read.**

Requirement #3 – Write an in-class essay the first week of school

Within the first few days of school, you will be asked to write an in-class essay about the book from the list. This writing assignment will be given the first week of school Since you may use notes for this assignment, you should use the note-taking sheet you completed as part of the second requirement. Without details and specific quotes from the novel, it will be difficult to do a good job on this assignment.

Middle School Summer Reading List

Choose one (or more!) of the books below. If there is a similar book that you would like to read which is not on the list, please contact me for approval. Books should be on a middle school reading level or above.

Nonfiction:

Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank
Bomb: *The Race to Build – and Steal – the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*, by Steve Sheinkin
Buried Alive!: *How 33 Miners Survived 69 Days Deep Under the Chilean Desert*, by Elaine Scott
Escape! *The Story of the Great Houdini*, by Sid Fleischman
Kids With Courage: *True Stories*, by Barbara Lewis
Titanic: *Voices from the Disaster*, by Deborah Hopkinson

Science Fiction/Fantasy Worlds:

City of Ember, by Jeanne DuPrau
Ender’s Game, by Orson Scott Card (*Parents – this book does have bad language)
Gregor the Overlander, by Suzanne Collins
Life as We Knew It, by Susan Beth Pfeffer
The Supernaturalist, by Eoin Colfer
The Grimm Legacy, by Polly Schulman

Realistic Fiction:

Close to Famous, by Joan Bauer
Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah
Long Way From Chicago, by Robert Peck
Middle School: *The Worst Years of My Life*, by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts
The Mother-Daughter Book Club, by Heather Vogel Frederick
The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place, by E.L. Konigsburg
The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton

Historic Fiction:

A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park
Coyote Winds, by Helen Sedwick
Fever 1793, by Laurie Anderson
The Lions of Little Rock, by Kristin Levine
Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry
One Came Home, by Amy Timberlake

Sports Themed Books:

The Boy Who Saved Baseball, by John H. Ritter
Pop, by Gordon Korman
Soccer Hero, by Matt Christopher
Take Your Best Shot, by John Coy

Adventures and Mysteries:

Black Star, Bright Dawn, by Scott O’Dell
City of Bones, by Cassandra Claire (*Parents – teen dating scenes)
Divergent, by Veronica Roth (*Parents – some mature content)
Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children, by Ransom Riggs
Stormbreaker, by Anthony Horowitz
The Supernaturalist, by Eoin Colfer
Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer, by John Grisham
Virals, by Kathy Reichs
The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin

Scary Books:

Deep and Dark and Dangerous, by Mary Downing Hahn
Doll Bones, by Holly Black
The Dollhouse Murders, by Betty Ren Wright
The Graveyard Book, by Neil Gaiman

Name: _____ Book/Author: _____

Middle School Summer Reading Note-taking chart

Directions: Read your chosen text carefully. Pay close attention to character development, theme, symbolism, the significance of the title, and the writer’s style. As you read, use the form below to take notes. (If you should need additional space, feel free to use additional forms)

What is the setting of the story? Where does it take place? When? *If there are special quotes or examples from the book that show this answer put the quote/example and page number here.*

What does this book say about people or life in general (theme)? Is there a clear lesson for readers to learn from reading this book? *If there are special quotes or examples from the book that show this answer put the quote/example and page number here.*

In what ways does it remind you of people you may have known or experiences you have had? You may also think about connections to stories or books you have read, or movies, works of art, or TV programs you have seen. *If there are special quotes or examples from the book that show this answer put the quote/example and page number here.*

How successful was the author in creating a good book? *If there are special quotes or examples from the book that show this answer put the quote/example and page number here.*

Describe how the main character has changed through the story. *If there are special quotes or examples from the book that show this answer put the quote/example and page number here.*

Summarize the basic plot of the book.

How does the title fit the book? Is there a hidden meaning?