

Summer Reading 2024

8th Grade

Summer is here! It's time for sleeping in, hanging out at the pool, going on vacation and relaxing with friends! But, another thing that is wonderful about summer is that you have more time to curl up with good books. So spend a little time on a pool lounge with a book in your hand, reach for a book on the plane or in the car instead of the Nintendo Switch, or linger a little longer in bed so that you can dive further into your book:)

This summer, you get to read 2 books for ELA! The first will be a piece of historical fiction, and YOU CHOOSE THE TOPIC AND BOOK! Whatever time in history interests you (or historical event), seek an age-appropriate **fictional** book (at least 100 pages) that is set in that time period. Remember that historical fiction is a story with made up characters, but the events are set during a real period in history. Examples: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak or *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Many of the books you will read in ELA this year will be historical fiction so this will be a great starting point!

Below are some links to lists of historical fiction books suitable for middle school students. Some are more geared towards 5th and 6th grades, so choose one that is appropriate for your age and reading ability.

Historical Fiction for Middle School - <https://somethewiser.com/middle-grade-historical-fiction>

Middle School Historical Fiction - <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/middle-grade-historical-fiction>

Historical Fiction for 8th Grade - <https://jocolibrary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/73841307/247301021>

After you finish reading your historical fiction piece, you will type a 5-paragraph essay where you identify some of the elements of fiction. You will follow the format outlined below and then either email it to Mrs. Saucier (asaucier@stekcschool.org) or print it out and turn it in on the 1st day of school.

When writing your paragraph, you will implement the ToSEEC method. Make sure every paragraph has a clear topic sentence, give evidence from the book and elaborate on it, and finally finish each paragraph with a concluding sentence. Don't forget your transition words and phrases to help you move from one idea to the next.

Extra credit opportunity! Anyone who completes this and emails it to me by July 31 will earn 5 bonus points to start the year!

Paragraph #1 (Introduction)

- Introduce the title and author of the book you read.
- State the period of history in which the book takes place
- Briefly explain why you were interested in reading a book set in this time period

Paragraph #2 (Body Paragraph-Character)

- Who was the protagonist in the story? What were some of their character traits?
- Who were some of the other main characters in the story?
- Which character was your favorite and why?

Paragraph #3 (Body-Setting)

- When did this story take place?
- What is significant about this period (or event) in history?
- Where did this story take place? Describe the setting.

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Paragraph #4 (Body-Plot)

- What were the main things that happened in the story?
- What would you consider the climax (turning point) and why?

Paragraph #5 (Conclusion)

- What is your opinion of this book?
- What did you learn about this time period (or event) in history?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

The second book you get to read is any piece of fiction! Novel, fantasy, science fiction, mystery, romance, or another historical fiction...YOU DECIDE! I simply want you to immerse yourself in the story and enjoy what you read. Please choose an age-appropriate book!!! You are 8th graders so pick something that will challenge you!!! If you have questions, please email me.

As you read this book, you will be completing a One-Pager. 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. You will share these with your classmates on the first day of school.

I have provided you with a template that demonstrates where things should be included and a blank template for you to print and complete.

Here's what your one pager MUST INCLUDE:

- A border which represents 2 key themes and 2 important quotes from the story
- An important symbol from the story and a quote woven around it (upper left-hand corner)
- Images or doodled words that represent key characters from the novel (upper right-hand corner)
- Images or doodled words that represent at least 1 major setting from the story (lower left-hand corner)
- Images and/or words that show a connection between the theme(s) in the novel and what is going on in the world (lower right-hand corner)

You may also add other symbols, drawing and words that represent the reading. See the example on the next page.

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A theme from the story	
Most important symbol from the story & a quote woven around it	Key characters from the story- images or words
Title & Author of Novel	
At least 1 major setting from the story	A connection between the theme(s) in novel and what is going on in the world
A theme from the story	

Important quote from the text

Important quote from the text

Happy reading! Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in August. ~Mrs. Saucier