

8th Grade

Summer Reading Project



In order to prepare for eighth grade, you are required to read at least two books from the District 54 Summer Reading List. The list contains both fiction and nonfiction books at different Lexile levels. You are also required to complete a Reading Log and Written Response.

1. Choose **at least two books** to read during the summer.
2. Once you have read the books, complete the attached **Reading Log** for Book 1. **Book 1 MUST be a fictional book. Book 2 may be either fiction or nonfiction.**
3. Select **one Written Response** from the list to complete for Book 2. Your Written Response may either be **typed** or **neatly handwritten**.
4. You may hand-write your work on lined paper, or print your typed responses. **Please staple or paperclip your work to this packet.**

Please avoid these:

Please avoid reading the following books as they are part of our 7th and 8th Grade Guided Reading Curriculum:

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| -The Hunger Games Series | -Ghost | -Fahrenheit 451 |
| -The Lord of the Flies | -To Kill a Mockingbird | -My Side of the Mountain |
| -The Outsiders | -Hatchet | -The Giver |
| -The Book Thief | -Night | -The Devil's Arithmetic |
| -The Boy in the Striped Pajamas | -Anything But Typical | -Mango Shaped Space |
| -Ender's Game | -Frankenstein | -Divergent Series |
| -Twilight Series | -Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series | - Once Series |

When you begin school in August, you will share and turn in the Reading Log and Written Response to your language arts teacher.

Your project is due on **Friday, August 23rd** for all incoming 8th graders. If your project is NOT turned in on time, it will not be considered for the Homework pass and/or Pizza pass.



Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Part 1 - Book 1 (Fiction): **Book Review**

Directions: Read the following guidelines to write a thorough book review, then read the example to model your own as you write. Complete the reading log below based on Book 1.

Book Title:	Author:
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Evaluate the book by writing a three paragraph book review that addresses the following items in your book:

- In your own words explain your favorite part of the book and your least favorite part of the book. Also, explain if you could change something in the book what it would be. (If you want to change the ending do not give it away!) **(4-5 sentences)**
- Explain how the main protagonist of the novel changes and develops over the course of the novel. **(4-5 sentences)**
- Explain the rating that you would give your book out of four stars below (4 stars is the highest rating you can give). Justify your rating by explaining why you would or would not recommend the book to others, and provide appropriate reasons that would demonstrate why you would or would not recommend this book **(4-5 sentences)**.

---> **Possible Reasons:**

- The book is very suspenseful -OR- there is a lack of suspense.
- The book is full of plot twists -OR there are very few plot twists.
- The book is very predictable -OR- the book has a very unpredictable story.
- The characters are very believable and relatable to a reader -OR- the characters are not very believable or relatable.
- There is a strong message or theme OR the book has no clear message/theme.
- There is a poor description of setting and characters -OR- there is a vivid or life-like description of setting and characters.
- The book has a well-connected plot -OR- the plot is not very well connected and there are holes in the plot.
- The conflicts are resolved by the end of the book -OR- the conflicts are NOT clearly resolved by the end of the book.

Example Book Review:

This summer I read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by JK Rowling. My favorite part of this book is when Harry Potter becomes sorted into his Hogwarts House. This part of the story is my favorite because I enjoyed it when Harry becomes part of the Gryffindor house and this demonstrates that he does not want to be a part of the more ominous Slytherin house. If I could change a portion of the story, I would want to change the part of the story where Harry is living with his aunt and uncle because they are very mean to him. I would want him to not be living in a cupboard beneath the stairs, and I would want him to be more accepted by his aunt and uncle.

Harry Potter changes throughout the course of this story from a young boy who does not know anything about the wizarding world to a young man who is becoming a wizard. Harry at the beginning of the story feels that he is inferior and never connects with his family because he is aware of the fact that he is different from them. At Hogwarts Harry is able to figure out who he really is, who his parents were, and who he wants to become. By the end of the story, Harry feels that he has a purpose, has surrounded himself with friends who are like him, and has started his journey at Hogwarts with more confidence.

I would give this book 4 stars out of the possible 4 stars because I would recommend this book to others. I enjoyed the imagery and description of the setting that the book presents in every chapter. This book not only is written well, but it also demonstrates an important message that anyone can achieve if they truly have the confidence and determination. Lastly, all of the characters were well-defined and were easy to imagine as I read the story which additionally makes me want to continue to read the book as I see these characters develop as well.

Part 2 - Book 2 (Fiction or Nonfiction):

Written Response

Book Title:	Author:
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PART 2 Directions: After reading the second book over the summer, complete one of the written response options below. Circle the option you choose. Your project may either be typed or neatly handwritten.

Fiction Options:

1. Write a continuation of the story. Describe what you think might happen to the characters after the story has ended. What obstacles do these characters face and what will they do to overcome them? Your response should be **three complete paragraphs 5-7 sentences each**. Make sure your answer only includes information based on what happens after the story ends. (Do not retell the story.) Be sure to use what you have learned about the setting and characters as you tell what happens next. Everything should be logical and based on the events in the story. Be sure to write using the same tone as the author used throughout the story.

2. **New acquaintances.** - Select **two** characters. Then think about **three to five** people, living or dead, that you would like your characters to meet. Write about how you selected these new acquaintances and what you'd like the character to learn from the people you introduced him or her to. For instance, after reading *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* you might want Charlotte to meet Sojourner Truth so she can see other women who do important work, Madame Curie who worked in a field not many women ever entered, and so on. For **each person**, write a **4-5 sentence explanation**, explaining why you selected that new acquaintance.

3. **A character's fears** - One way we get to know characters is to think deeply about them and make inferences based on their actions and on what they and others say about them. Through a person's actions we can learn what they fear and what they want to avoid the most. Select three characters from your novel and write a paragraph on what you believe they fear the most and what evidence you used to come to this conclusion. For **each fear**, write a **4-5 sentence** explanation, explaining why you selected that fear.

4. **Family history** - Create the history of the family of one of the main characters in your novel. For instance, in *Spite Fences*, what would Mama's life have been like? What major events affected her family? How were such things as holidays and birthdays celebrated? What is important to this family? Your essay should consist of at least **three complete paragraphs 5-7 sentence each**.

5. **Different Perspective**- Choose a scene from the story and rewrite it from a **different** character's point of view. Include the **chapter** and **page number** you are choosing to re-write. Explain the events from your chosen character's perspective and be sure to maintain a clear tone (voice) throughout that fits with the events of the story. Make sure to include all major events, but include information that is not included in the book. **Do not** include direct quotes from the book. Your response should be a minimum of **three complete paragraphs, 5-7 sentences each**.

6. **Advertisements** - To show your understanding of a character, go through several magazines and newspapers looking for advertisements of goods you think your character would like. Cut out the pictures, mount them on a poster board or a piece of regular paper, and under each picture **explain** why this product would appeal to your character. Each explanation should be **2-3 complete sentences**. You must find **6 advertisements** for this project.

7. **Book Soundtrack:** Create a **5 track playlist** for your book. Your **first** song should connect to the main character. Your **second** song should connect to the conflict. Your **third** song should connect to the setting. Your **fourth** song should connect to the resolution. The **final** song should connect to the book as a whole. For **each song** include **the title, artist** and a **2-3 sentence explanation** using the lyrics from the song and details from the book to show how they connect.

Non-Fiction Options:

Types of Non-Fiction Books: Biography, Autobiography, Memoir, Historical Book, Sports Book, Travel Book, Self-Help Book

******Do not use a Fiction Book for this Section******

7. **Interview with the author.** What questions would you ask the author about his or her book, issues in the book, and personal experiences related to their book? You must come up with at least **5 questions AND provide 2-3 sentence answers.** Keep in mind that the questions should be specific about a topic or issue in the book that relate to the author. Ask open ended questions instead of questions that would get a yes or no response. Some questions should have follow up questions as well.

8. **Create a newspaper article on your book.** This report will be completed in the format of a newspaper. You can type this in paragraph format, or if you are computer savvy you may use Microsoft publisher or something similar. Look at a newspaper to get some ideas. Use the following requirements to design and lay out your newspaper. You must have each of the following sections in your newspaper.

- **Title/Name of Newspaper** – it can be related to the book, your name, the name of the school...
- **Article Summary** – Write a summary of the text that will answer who, what, when, where, and why. This article should be a 5-7 sentence paragraph. **Create a catchy headline for the article.** Be sure to include the title of the book somewhere in the summary or the headline.
- **Editorial** – Choose an issue related to your book and think about your opinion. Write a letter to the editor describing how you feel about the issue. For example if your book describes animal rights, share your opinion. Think carefully and honestly about what you want to say. **Create a headline** for the editorial. This should be a complete 5-7 sentence paragraph.

9. **Recommend Movies to the author** - From all the movies you've seen in the last couple of years, pick five you would recommend for your author to see. Give a brief summary of each movie and explain why you think the author should see it. Explain why you selected the movies. What do you hope your author will like about or get out of the movie? Each explanation should be **2-3 complete sentences.**

10. **Talk to the author** - Write a letter to the author of the book explaining to him or her why you think he or she wrote the book and what he or she was trying to show through the book. Be sure to explain what you got out of the book. If the author is still alive, send the letter to the author via the publisher of the book. (Be sure to make a copy to turn in!) Your letter should be **three complete 5-7 sentence paragraphs.**

11. **Discussion Questions:** Find 3 discussion questions that go along with your book. You can look in the back of the book or go online to find these questions. Most discussion questions usually begin with WHY or HOW and ask you to analyze a particular component of the book (character motivation, author's purpose, connections to the real world, etc.) **Write down the discussion question** and then include your response to each of your three questions. Your responses to each of the questions should be **AT LEAST 3-4 sentences in length.**

Circle 1 : Fiction Non-Fiction

Earned Homework Pass	Did Not Earn Pass
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