



8th Grade Language Arts 2016-17 Summer Homework

Students work hard to improve their reading skills during the school year, and we hate to see “summer slide” diminish those gains. In order to keep students’ minds sharp over the summer, **students are required to read at least one novel of their choice.**

Students must complete a written assignment to demonstrate their comprehension and analysis of the text.

OPTION #1: Double-entry Journal

Keep a double-entry journal in which you record quotes from your book and your own analysis of the quotes. (See attached example and rubric.) Your comments may include: questions (and speculation about the answers), inferences about character traits, predictions, connections to the text, analysis of author’s style, etc.

OPTION #2: Character Diary

Write a diary from the perspective of a character in your book. (See attached example and rubric.) You should create at least five substantial entries that reflect knowledge of the story’s plot and the character’s feelings throughout the book. *Have fun with it!*

**Assignments may be typed and submitted electronically or hand-written and submitted on the first day of school.*

****Students expecting to enroll in Honors Language Arts must complete one double-entry journal AND one character diary (using a different book for each).**

Important notes regarding selection of books:

Students are free to choose any novel to read for the assignments; an extensive list of recommended titles is available on Skinner’s website. It is important that students choose books at an appropriate level. The assignments are less meaningful if a student uses a book below his or her level. Generally, students should encounter 3-5 “clunks” (unknown words) per page in order to be sufficiently challenged to think through the text.

As a reminder, summer homework assignments are **mandatory**, and their completion is required for students to be eligible for 8th grade continuation. **Summer homework is due on the first day of school.** We look forward to a productive year and expect that completion of summer homework will get your student off to a strong start!

Sincerely,

Jessica Frahm
8th Grade Language Arts
jessica_frahm@dpsk12.org

Kristina Voskes
8th Grade Language Arts
kristina_voskes@dpsk12.org