



8th Grade Language Arts 2017-18 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!*

Submit your assignment by logging into your DPS Google account and joining the Google classroom called “8th Grade Language Arts Summer Homework (2017-18)” using the code: **4phsge**

**If submitting the assignment(s) digitally will be challenging for you, contact teachers to make other arrangements*

****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,

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Double Entry Journal Rubric

	100% <i>Exceeds Expectations</i>	85% <i>Meets Expectations</i>	75% <i>Partially Meets Expectations</i>	60% <i>Does Not Meet Expectations</i>
Quality of Responses	All entries demonstrate deep insight into the novel and do an exceptional job of explaining the student's thoughts through the skillful selection of textual evidence and thoughtful analysis.	All entries demonstrate sufficient insight into the novel and adequately explain the student's thoughts through the selection of textual evidence and analysis.	Some entries demonstrate a lack of insight into the novel, but analysis may be superficial and/or student's thoughts are not sufficiently explained.	No evidence of analysis beyond simply identifying or restating the speaker and/or circumstances of the passages or quotes.
Quantity of Responses	Includes 20 or more relevant quotations or passages (on the left side of the double-entry journal) accompanied by student responses to the recorded passages (on the right side of the double-entry journal).	Includes 15-19 relevant quotations or passages (on the left side of the double-entry journal) accompanied by student responses to the recorded passages (on the right side of the double-entry journal).	Includes 10-14 relevant quotations or passages (on the left side of the double-entry journal) accompanied by student responses to the recorded passages (on the right side of the double-entry journal).	Includes 9 or fewer quotations or passages (on the left side of the double-entry journal) accompanied by student responses to the recorded passages (on the right side of the double-entry journal).
Conventions	Evident control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. All entries are grammatically correct.	Sufficient control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. Few grammatical errors are present in entries and do not interfere with reading.	Limited control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. Confused and inconsistent arrangement of sentences and fragments interferes with reading.	Minimal control of grammar, spelling, and sentence formation. Entries are difficult to read.
Format	All passages/quotes are copied carefully, are placed in quotation marks, and are followed by the page numbers in parentheses.	Most passages/quotes are copied carefully (some may contain minor errors), are placed in quotation marks, and are followed by the page numbers in parentheses.	Many passages/quotes are copied sloppily (several may contain errors), are missing quotation marks, and/or may be missing page numbers in parentheses.	All passages/quotes are copied sloppily (most contain obvious errors), and are missing quotation marks and page numbers in parentheses.

Double Entry Journal Example

Name: Skinner Scholar

Book Title: The Hunger Games

Author: Suzanne Collins

1. "Concealed by a clump of bushes, I flatten out my belly and slide under a two-foot stretch that's been loose for years" (5).

It seems like Katniss is a bit of a rebel because she is not afraid to sneak past the fence to hunt even though it's against the District's rules.

2. "Leave? How could I leave Prim, who is the only person in the world I'm certain I love?" (10)

Does Katniss not love her mom? Or Gale? I wonder if her relationship with her mom is strained because of something that happened in the past.

3. "I notice her blouse has pulled out of her skirt in the back again and force myself to stay calm. 'Tuck your tail in, little duck,' I say, smoothing the blouse back in place" (15).

When Katniss tucks in Prim's blouse, it reminds me of how I always fix my little sister's braids when they fall out. I think these little actions show that we look out for our siblings and want to help them develop self-confidence. Katniss and Prim must be very close.

4. "He tells of the history of Panem, the country that rose up out of the ashes of a place that was once called North America" (18).

Does that mean that this story is set in the future? How far in the future? I think it might take place about 100 years in the future because it would take time for those natural disasters and wars to settle down before Panem was created.

5. "At first one, then another, then almost every member of the crowd touches the three middle fingers of their left hand to their lips and holds it out to me" (24).

I predict that Katniss will become a hero to the people of her district because the crowd at the Reaping showed her a special gesture that means thanks and admiration after she volunteered to take her sister's place in the Hunger Games. Also, they remained silent rather than applauding to show respect for her brave decision.

6. "I feel like I owe him something, and I hate owing people. Maybe if I had thanked him at some point, I'd be feeling less conflicted now" (32).

Katniss seems like a very proud and independent person. It makes her uncomfortable that Peeta helped her in a time of need because she doesn't like to feel weak or helpless.

7. "I've had a lot of practice at wiping my face clean of emotions, and I do this now" (48).

This reminds me of myself because I don't like to show people when I'm upset. This further proves that Katniss likes to put on a brave face. That may help her in the Games.

[Actual assignment to be continued for a total of 15-20 entries!]

Character Diary Instructions & Rubric

Write at least five substantial journal entries from the perspective of a character in your book. At the beginning of each entry, state the name of the featured character and the chapter after which the entry would be written.

Put yourself in the character's shoes, and consider the following questions to get you going:

- What are you most afraid of or worried about? What is making you anxious? Describe the person, object, or event that bothers you.
- Who has impressed, annoyed, or pleased you most so far? What other character has had the strongest effect on you? Describe the interaction you've had, and why you feel the way that you do.
- What do you want to accomplish in your life? What big goals have you set for yourself, and why? What obstacles stand in your way?
- If you could relive a moment, what moment would you like to relive, and why? What event do you think about? Why is it such a strong memory for you? Do you have any regrets about this moment?
- What lesson(s) have you learned? What have the events that you've been through taught you? How have you changed?
- Choose a value or ideal that is important to you—honesty, courage, faithfulness, and so forth. Define your value, and explore how it relates to your life. Why is this ideal important to you?

	100% Exceeds Expectations	85% Meets Expectations	75% Partially Meets Expectations	60% Does Not Meet Expectations
<i>Format</i>	Each entry is titled neatly with the character's name and the relevant chapter(s)	Most entries are titled with the character's name and the relevant chapter(s)	Entries may be missing the character's name and/or the relevant chapter(s)	Character's name and relevant chapter(s) are not stated
<i>Content</i>	Entries demonstrate deep insight into characters' feelings and values along with knowledge of the plot's key events and themes	Entries demonstrate a clear understanding of characters' feelings along with knowledge of the plot's key events	Entries demonstrate a basic understanding of characters' feelings along with knowledge of plot events; entries may consist mostly of plot summary	Entries demonstrate confusion about characters' feelings and plot
<i>Length</i>	Journal includes more than five entries; entries are 20+ lines long	Journal includes five entries; entries are 15-20 lines long	Journal includes five entries that are 10-15 lines long	Fewer than five entries and/or entries are less than 10 lines long
<i>Conventions</i>	Entries are written in first person perspective and contain few errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Entries are written in first person perspective and contain occasional errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Entries are sometimes written in first person perspective and contain several errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Entries are not consistently written in first person perspective and/or contain several errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that interfere with meaning

Character Diary Entry Example

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Entry #1: Prim, Chapter 3

My head is spinning. The unthinkable has happened. My stomach keeps clenching and unclenching like an angry fist. When I heard my name over the speaker, I felt a paralyzing numbness. My name, one slip of paper among hundreds, got picked? I heard a few gasps around me. People were stunned that a twelve year old had been chosen. A child forced to fight to the death for the cameras. Those cowards in the Capitol will do anything to keep their control over us.

Within seconds of the announcement, I heard my sister's voice. Katniss was pushing her way through the throng, volunteering her life to save mine. She didn't even hesitate. It was not her job to save me. It's strange that she was willing to sacrifice herself for me, yet I'm angry with her. I cannot bear to watch my sister die, but then neither could she. I know she'd do anything to protect me. I'm hoping that will get her through the Games because I still need her here in District 12.

I keep hoping I'll wake up from this nightmare, but she's really gone. They took her away so quickly. She's on her way to the Capitol now, and within days, she'll be in the arena fighting for her life.

Katniss must win. Deep down, I feel that she really will. I don't know anybody as strong and brave as my sister. I don't care if the District 1 & 2 Tributes have been training their whole lives for this. Katniss will beat them. She has to. I don't know what I would do without her.