



8th Grade
Summer Reading
2020

Dear Student,

Welcome to summer! What a strange end of the year we have had. I hope and pray that this letter finds you and your family healthy. I wonder what your summer plans will be? We will all have a lot to share when school opens in August. Until then, however, I hope your break is filled with relaxation, fun, and, of course, some reading. Please take time to read this letter carefully as it will answer any questions you have in regards to your summer reading assignments. You have two books to read this summer for 8th grade. Please purchase the books and complete the reading by the first day of school. I also am available for questions at croe@cclphoenix.org. I do **not**, however, welcome questions that have already been answered in this informative letter!

I. For your first reading assignment, you **MUST** choose from one of the following selections—you do not have the freedom to choose other than the list (except for Michael Crichton). I have included a variety of different subjects/genres for your reading pleasure! Please select one of the following books:

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|---|----------------------|
| ● <i>The Hiding Place</i> (my favorite, which I'll reference quite a bit) | Corrie ten Boom |
| ● <i>Into Thin Air</i> | John Krakauer |
| ● <i>Rebecca</i> | Daphne du Maurier |
| ● <i>War in the Middle East</i> | Hampton Wilborn |
| ● <i>The Greatest: Muhammed Ali</i> | Walter Dean Myers |
| ● <i>Sphere</i> (or another Crichton book) | Michael Crichton |
| ● <i>Chew on This</i> (check with your parents before you choose this) | Schlosser and Wilson |
| ● <i>Little Women</i> (one of the books I wrote my master's thesis on) | Louisa May Alcott |
| ● <i>Christy</i> | Catherine Marshall |
| ● <i>The Hired Girl</i> | Laura Amy |
| ● Schlitz | |
| ● <i>The Boys in the Boat</i> | Daniel James Brown |
| ● <i>Magnus Chase</i> | Rick Riordan |
| ● <i>The Worst Class Trip Ever</i> | Dave Barry |

- *Peak*
- *The Count of Monte Cristo*
- *Call of the Wild*

Roland Smith
 Alexandre Dumas
 Jack London

Once you have selected one of the novels, you should assess how long it will take you to complete your reading and then proceed from there. In addition, I would like you to keep a journal about your summer reading. You must write/submit a Response Journal and you must also do a presentation. All of the directions are listed below in Part 1 and Part 2.

Part 1: Response Journal

Below you will find several questions to ponder during your reading. Select five of the questions and compose a journal entry of 100 words (or more) for each question.

Format: All entries should be typed using Times, size 12 font and double-spaced. It is not necessary to use a new page for each entry. Please make sure to put a word count at the end of each entry.

Helpful Technology Suggestions:

Please remember that technology issues are not a valid reason to turn your work in late. Here are a few tips to avoid these potential problems:

- Save your files often and always have a back-up of your file.
- When submitting to Turnitin.com: (1) Print off a copy of your submission receipt. (2) Double-check to make sure the assignment was submitted from the class homepage.

Submitting your assignment:

Response Journal: Submit your response journal to turnitin.com; submissions must be time-stamped before 8:15 am, Monday, August 17th. You must also bring a printed copy of your response journal with you to class on Monday, August 17th. (If you do not provide a hard copy on this day, or fail to submit to Turnitin by 8:15 am, your assignment will be late.)

Turnitin

Class ID: 24783461

Enrollment Key: lutheran

Questions:

1. Explain a character's problem and then offer your character advice on how to solve his/her problem.
2. Explain how a character is acting and why you think the character is acting that way.
3. From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen.

4. Pick one character and explain why you would/would not like to have him/her as a friend.
5. Describe and explain why you would/would not like to have lived in the time or place of the story.
6. What real-life people or events are you reminded of by characters or events in the story? Explain why.
7. Write about what would happen if you brought one of your characters to school or home for a day.
8. Pick a scene in which you disagreed how a character handled a situation/person and rewrite it in the way you think it should have happened.
9. What quality of which character strikes you as a good characteristic to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?
10. Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why?
11. How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?
12. Why do you think the author wrote this story?
13. If you were the author, would you have ended the story in a different way? Why? How so?
14. How does the character's actions affect other people in the story?

In addition to the Response Journal, you will need to do a presentation. The directions follow:

Part 2: Multimedia Presentation

- Choose one of the options to present your information. Due Monday, August 17th..
- Your class presentation about your project needs to be 2-4 minutes long—**no longer!!** Please compose notecards to help in your presentation. You will be marked down if you read your note cards—practice; your note cards are just prompts.

Option #1: Dress Up Like a Character from Your Story

Select a character for your story and dress up like him/her. Tell their story in a first person voice and make sure to include details from the story. Props will also be helpful. Have fun. Remember that your performance is 2-4 minutes long.

Option #2: Animated Video

Create an animated video (<http://www.powtoon.com/edu-home>) about an important event from your story. You should also include relevant information regarding background and characters. Videos are to be 2-3 minutes long with a short introduction to the story and your video. Make sure to use spell check and email me a working link.

Option #3: A Time Capsule

This is one of my favorites! Create a time capsule that contains important symbols from your book. You should have 5-10 pieces of information and your time capsule itself should be related to your book. Two-four minute presentation.

II. *The Outsiders*

The second book I would like you to read is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Students always like this book, probably because it is about social groups and the desire to find one's place within a group. My suggestion is that you read this book **just prior** to the start of school as **you will take an Accelerated Reader test, as well as a written test**, on the story the first day or two of school—it is a pretty quick read.



There are no assignments with this story, but bring your copy of the book the first couple of weeks of school and be ready to work and discuss.

In past years, I have heard that there has been the temptation to watch the movie and not read the book. **Do not do this.** Your assignment is to read the book, not watch the movie and you will miss important information if you do.

I am looking forward to an exciting year studying literature and English together. God's blessings on your summer!

Mrs. Roe

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