

May 23, 2017

Dear Middle School Students and Parents,

Summer is a great opportunity for students to continue reading and to enjoy books he/she did not have time for during the school year. It is also a time to make sure that students do not lose the literacy skills they gained throughout the previous school year. With the higher level thinking required in middle school, it is essential that students read and write to maintain these skills. The Kirtland Middle School Language Arts Department has developed the following summer assignments in order to help students prepare for the upcoming school year.

UPCOMING SIXTH GRADERS will be given an informational packet from from Ms. O'Donnell that outlines reading expectations and assignment requirements.

UPCOMING SEVENTH GRADERS will have one required book to read, and a choice of books from the provided list. A Reader Response Journal is required for the student's chosen book. These novels will serve as the foundation for the first English Language Arts unit of the 2017-2018 school year.

UPCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS will have **ONE** required book, and **ONE** free choice book. Additionally, a vocabulary log must be completed for your required book. A Reader Response Journal is required for the student's chosen book. These novels will serve as the foundation for the first English Language Arts unit of the 2017-2018 school year.

Thank you for your assistance. Enjoy your summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Kirtland Middle School Language Arts Department

Grade 7 Required Reading (Reading & Lexile levels noted in parentheses after each novel)

Honors:

The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed by Heather Vogel Frederick (7.1 reading level; 1020 Lexile)

Additional Book: (CHOOSE ONE to read and complete response journal)

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick (7.4 reading level; 960 Lexile)

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt (7.2 reading level; 1000 Lexile)

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (7.1 reading level; 1100 Lexile)

I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade by Diane Lee Wilson (7.3 reading level; 1010 Lexile)

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break by Lensey Namioka (6.3 reading level; 830 Lexile)

Regular:

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick (7.4 reading level; 960 Lexile)

Additional Book: (CHOOSE ONE to read and complete response journal)

The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed by Heather Vogel Frederick (7.1 reading level; 1020 Lexile)

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt (7.2 reading level; 1000 Lexile)

Jesse by Gary Soto (7.1 reading level; 900 Lexile)

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break by Lensey Namioka (6.3 reading level; 830 Lexile)

I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade by Diane Lee Wilson (7.3 reading level; 1010 Lexile)

Grade 8 Required Reading

Honors:

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Additional Books:

Student Choice. Please choose a book you find interesting and that is at your reading level. Reading levels for novels can be found at www.lexile.com

Regular:

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford

Additional Books:

Student Choice. Please choose a book you find interesting and that is at your reading level. Reading levels for novels can be found at www.lexile.com

Reader Response Journal Directions

In addition to the assigned book for your summer reading, you are also required to read a book of your choice (8th graders choose from the list provided), and complete a response journal. We encourage you to answer questions each time you read, rather than waiting until the end. Please include the date and amount of time you read for each journal entry.

You must answer **20** of the provided questions, **choosing at least 2 from each section**. No question should be repeated. You must answer in complete sentences (CSRQ), addressing all parts of the question, and follow all punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and spelling rules. Your response to each question should be *no less than two sentences*. For questions that require you to cite an example, you must put the page number in parentheses.

Your responses may be handwritten neatly in a notebook or typed and printed for your teacher. Be sure to clearly label the number for each response. The questions are also available on the Kirtland Middle School web page. Be sure to look at the correct grade level questions. An example has been provided below.

EXAMPLE JOURNAL:

June 3, 2014 25 minutes

Title: The Ransom of Red Chief. Author: O. Henry

16. One character from the book I could not be friends with is Sam. He is very demanding and judgmental of his friends. He is too lazy to do his own work, so he makes his friends do it for him.

18. The characters in this book are credible. Red Chief is a very active five year old who throws tantrums when he does not get his way, and we see that in everyday life (pg. 75). Another example is Bill and Sam demanding ransom money from Red Chief's father (pg. 72). It is very unfortunate, but there are people who kidnap others for money.

20. An example of conflict in the story is Bill and Sam having a hard time controlling Red Chief. This is external, character vs. character conflict.

June 6, 2014 20 minutes

Title: The Ransom of Red Chief. Author: O. Henry

8. An unfamiliar vocabulary word was palatable (pg. 77). By using context clues, I was able to determine that it means edible.

14. The author used foreshadowing when Red Chief said, "You will be sorry," (pg. 77). This was effective because I knew that he was plotting something to get back at Bill and Sam for how they treated him.

Grade 7 Reader Response Questions

Reading Strategies

- 1) Which part of your book are you having the most difficulty understanding or connecting with?
- 2) What have you done that is similar to what the characters experience in your book?
- 3) Which part of the story caused the most intense feelings in you? Why?
- 4) Can you empathize (relate to or understand) with one or more characters in your novel? Explain why or why not.
- 5) What event, setting or character in this book reminds you of your life and why?
- 6) What connections can you make between what you are reading and any other books or movies you have read or seen? What about any connections between everyday life, history, or current world events?
- 7) What portion/passage in the book have you had to reread because it was unclear after reading it the first time? Identify what was difficult to understand.

Vocabulary/Word Choice/Author's Writing Style

- 8) Identify unfamiliar vocabulary words or phrases during your reading, explain how you determined the meaning of these words or phrases.
- 9) Choose two sentences or passages that "grabbed" your attention. Cite the sentences including the page numbers and explain with details why you chose each one.
- 10) Cite two sensory language examples in the story and what you saw, felt, heard, smelled, and/or tasted.
- 11) Describe the author's writing style. Examine sentence structure, sentence length, use of modifiers (adjectives and adverbs), mood and tone. How does the author's writing style impact or influence the story?
- 12) How has the author kept you interested in the story or sparked your imagination? Cite three specific examples from the novel.

Figurative Language/Literary Techniques

- 13) Identify three examples of figurative language the author used. Explain the effect each of these examples had upon you, the reader.
- 14) Cite where the author used any foreshadowing to "hook" readers. Discuss its effectiveness.

Characterization

- 15) Which character can you connect with the most in your book and why?
- 16) How does the author best develop and reveal the characters? (Through dialogue with other characters? Through how other characters view him/her? Through character behavior? Through description?) Cite two (2) examples from the novel.
- 17) Which character(s) in this book are credible, or believable? Cite three (3) examples of what makes the character(s) credible/or not credible.

Plot

- 18) How realistic is the plot of your book? Cite two (2) examples to support your response.
- 19) Explain how a different setting would affect the main characters of this story.
- 20) Identify a point in the book where you just couldn't put the book down?
Cite two (2) plot elements that had you hooked!

Conflict

- 21) What do you believe to be the main conflict of the story? Which type of conflict is it? (External or internal? Character vs. _____?) Cite at least two (2) examples each of (external conflict and internal conflict) present in the novel.
- 22) How does one of the main characters solve his/her internal conflict?
- 23) How does the main conflict affect the main characters' actions, and their motivations?

Theme/Symbolism/Mood/Tone

- 24) Nearly all stories contain a theme or implied author's message about life. Identify the theme in your novel. Support your choice of theme with a minimum of two novel events.
- 25) What are you learning about "YOURSELF" from what you're reading? (Your own values, attitudes, and beliefs)
- 26) What has the main character learned at the end of the novel based upon his or her experiences?
How has he or she changed from the beginning of the novel?
- 27) Describe the mood the author created (using specific adjectives). Cite two examples of word choice(s) that have created that mood.
- 28) What symbolism was used in the novel? Identify the object(s) and what you believe they symbolize(s).