

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 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](http://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](http://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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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 8 Reading 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) Do you empathize with a certain character? Why/Why not? Give examples.
- 5) What event, setting or character in this book reminds you of your life and why?
- 6) Can you make any connections 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 situations in the world?
- 7) Have you had to reread any portion/passage in the book because it was unclear after reading it the first time?  
Identify what was difficult to understand.

### Vocabulary/Word Choice/Author's Writing Style

- 8) If you encountered unfamiliar vocabulary words or phrases during your reading, what strategies did you use to determine the meaning?
- 9) Choose three sentences that "grabbed" your attention. Write the sentences including the page and explain with details why you chose each one.
- 10) Describe and explain 3 sensory 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, mood and tone. How does this impact the story?
- 12) How has the author kept you interested in the story? What effective techniques were used?

### Figurative Language/Literary Techniques

- 13) Identify five examples of figurative language the author used. What effect did it have on you as a reader?
- 14) Has the author used any foreshadowing to "hook" readers? If so, provide an example and discuss its effectiveness.

### Characterization

- 15) Which character can you connect with the most in your book and why?
- 16) Which characterization method does the author use to reveal information about his/her characters?
- 17) Do you think that the majority of characters in this book are credible? If so/not, cite 3 examples of what makes them credible/not credible.

### Plot

- 18) How realistic is the plot of your book? Cite 3 examples to support your answer.
- 19) Analyze how a different setting would affect the characters or plot of this story.
- 20) Have you reached a point in the book where you just couldn't put the book down? If so, cite 3 plot events or character interactions that had you hooked!

### Conflict

- 21) Find and explain 2 examples of internal conflict. Find and explain 3 examples of external conflict, and describe which type it is (character vs. \_\_\_\_\_)
- 22) How does a character solve his/her internal conflict?
- 23) How does the conflict affect the characters, their actions, and their motivations?

### Theme/Symbolism/Mood/Tone

- 24) What is the theme in the novel? Is it explicit or implicit?
- 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 on his or her experiences? How has he or she changed from the beginning to the end?
- 27) Describe the mood the author created (using specific adjectives) and cite 3 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 it/they symbolize(s).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Log

**Directions:** Complete the following activities for new vocabulary words you come across in your reading.

Part I. Complete Frayer Model diagrams for the words listed. The first one has been completed for you.

1. plausible

<b>Definition</b>  <i>Believable or likely to happen</i>	<b>Facts/characteristics</b>  <i>Realistic</i> <i>Truthful</i> <i>Honest</i>
<b>Examples</b>  <i>Snow in Ohio in January</i> <i>Science homework due 3x this week</i>	<div>Plausible</div> <b>Nonexamples</b>  <i>Kenny ate 72 Chipotle burritos in 1 minute</i> <i>I saw a tiger walking in the hallway at school.</i>

1.

<b>Definition</b>	<b>Facts/characteristics</b>
<b>Examples</b>	<div></div> <b>Nonexamples</b>

2.

Definition	Facts/characteristics
Examples	Nonexamples

3.

Definition	Facts/characteristics
Examples	Nonexamples

4.

Definition	Facts/characteristics
Examples	Nonexamples



5.

Definition	Facts/characteristics
Examples	Nonexamples

Part II. Complete the synonym/antonym chart with 5 new words from your reading.

Word	Synonym	Antonym

Part III. Write a definition for 5 other new words. Then, use each word in a context-clue sentence.

1.

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Part IV. Use 5 additional new words in a summary sentence related to the novel. An example has been done for you.

1. hospitality

*The Widow Douglas's hospitality was extremely inviting for Huck.*

2.

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5.

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