

Responses to Summer Reading

Secondary Book and Extra Credit Books

In an effort to make summer reading more meaningful for students, we are asking our students to respond to and make connections to their chosen books – second required book and extra credit books – in an authentic way.

Required Reading Assessments

All students are required to read two books. One of those books (primary book) will come from the five books listed for each grade level. The other book (secondary book) can be whatever you like, and can come from the Supplemental List included in this mailing.

On the Friday of the week we return to school, students will write about their primary reading book in class. For their secondary book, students can respond to the book by choosing one of the responses from the list below. All responses are due the Friday of the week we return to school.

Some suggestions for student responses include, but are not limited to:

- Writing – a song, a story, an interview, a letter, a critique, an editorial, or a reading response journal (see **Reading Journal Questions** on next page).
- Artistic creation – baking a cake, drawing a poster, sculpting a figure, painting a portrait, etc.*
- Other creations or constructions – cooking or building, etc.*
- Technology – creating a pod cast or blog; recording a music video or demonstration; etc.*

** If students choose to respond in a non-written way, they must include some writing that accompanies their response. That writing should be a page in length and should focus on what inspired them to do or create what they did. Students may use the following questions as guidelines:*

- *How did your book inspire you?*
- *What part of the book inspired you to respond in that way?*
- *What have you learned about yourself, the book, or the world as a result of completing this assignment?*

Extra-Credit Reading Assessment

A component of the Summer Reading Program is extra credit reading. Students reading extra books and responding to them over the summer (above the minimum required) will receive 1 point per book added to their first quarter average, up to a total of **3 points**.

In order to receive the extra credit, students must respond to each extra book they have read. Those responses can come from the suggestions above. In addition, they must complete the **Summer Reading Extra Credit Form**, listing each book read. All written and constructed responses are due on the Friday of the week we return to school.

Reading Journal Questions



As part of your reading this summer, you have the option of keeping a journal. This can be a notebook where you write and discuss how you feel about a character or an issue raised in the book you are reading. You can also include comments about questions the author raises or about your own experiences as you are reading. Below are ideas you can use to fuel responses in your reading journal.

1. Write three facts and three opinions about your book.
2. Choose a character and pretend he or she is your brother or sister. Tell how that would affect your life.
3. Describe one scene in the book.
4. Compare a character to someone you know. How are they similar? Different?
5. Write a letter giving advice to one of the characters.
6. Write a poem or song you think a character in your book would like.
7. Write a poem or song from the point of view of one of the characters.
8. Do you have any questions for the author?
9. What predictions do you have?
10. What surprised you?
11. What impressed you?
12. What may have confused you? What didn't you get?
13. Did the author use any interesting vocabulary?

In order for your journal to count, you need to have at least five responses recorded, which should be roughly a page in length each. Please remember that this journal is not meant to be a private diary. You will have an opportunity to share your responses with the class.