EIGHTH GRADE

The Middle School at Lipscomb Academy Summer Reading Philosophy

Continued practice of reading skills is a cornerstone of a solid, well-rounded education. Adolescent cognitive development requires continual stimulation in order to maintain the progress made during the previous school year. Confident readers become confident communicators who are well-prepared for the 21st century.

You will soon be receiving information about how to access the new all-school read, The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown (Young Readers’ Edition). The two other books which need to be finished by our return to school are The Pigman by Paul Zindel, and Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. Tom Sawyer is no longer copyrighted, so there are free online editions. (Be sure to read The Pigman rather than one of its sequels The Pigman and Me, or The Pigman’s Legacy, although they are available to you later.)

I have attached a written assignment related to each one of these books that needs to be completed and turned in to me when school begins. Since summer reading is required rather than optional, each book assignment will receive a grade for English class. A parent must initial each one of the three books on the form on the next page to verify that you saw your child reading the books selected and that, to the best of your knowledge, s/he completed them.

Hopefully, summer reading will not stop at three books. If you have never read The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan, you really should read it too because it will be great preparation for our study of Greek mythology. Below is a list of others I strongly recommend. Let me know any additional books you read, whether from this list or not! I look forward to discussing all three books (and many others) with you in the fall!

--Mrs. Piper

8th GRADE Additional SUMMER READING LIST suggestions:

1. The Giver-Lowry
2. Any one of Redwall series-Jacques
3. Artemis Fowl-Coifer
4. Brian’s Winter – Paulsen (boys)
5. Chasing Redbird – Creech (girls)
6. Cold Sassy Tree - Olive Burns
7. Dicey’s Song – Voigt (girls)
8. Eragon - Paolini
9. Inkheart-Funke
10. Matched-Condie (girls)
11. And Then There Were None – Christie
12. Rifles for Watie – Keith (boys)
13. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Taylor
14. Roses for Mama – Oke (girls)
15. Stormbreaker- Horowitz
16. The Mysterious Benedict Society-Stewart
17. The Outsiders –Hinton
18. That Was Then; This Is Now (sequel) – Hinton
19. The Shakespeare Stealer-Blackwood
20. The Hobbit – Tolkien
21. Uglies-Westerfield (girls)
22. The Witch of Blackbird Pond-Speare
23. The Yearling – Rawlings
24. Wilderness Peril – Dygard (boys)
25. Up a Road Slowly – Hunt (girls)
26. Airborn-Oppel
27. Divergent-Roth
28. The Selection- Cass (girls)
29. Unwind- Shustermann
30. Cover-Up: Mystery at the SuperBowl – Feinstein

Please return this page signed. The assignments are on the next page. No assignment is required for any “bonus” book.

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<th>Title of Book</th>
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<td>2. The Pigman</td>
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<td>3. Tom Sawyer</td>
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Assignment 1:
On a separate piece of notebook paper, make a five question multiple choice test for **The Boys in the Boat**. Write four answer options for each question and label them A, B, C, and D. Make *two* of your questions about **plot**, *two* about **characters**, and *one* about **setting**. Be sure the answer options cover a wide range of the book’s pages. Below #5, write the word KEY and list the five correct answers.

Assignment #2: **The Pigman**
On notebook paper, answer any *three* of the following four topics:

1. If John and Lorraine were put on trial for killing Mr. Pignati, what do you think the verdict would be and why? Write at least five sentences.
2. This book was published in 1968, yet it seems very modern. What are at least two or three “clues” you spotted as you read the book that show its age?
3. Why do this book’s chapters alternate being “written” by the two main characters?
4. Who do you feel the most sympathy for: John, Lorraine, or Mr. Pignati? Discuss at least three of that character’s “issues.”

Assignment #3: **Tom Sawyer**
On notebook paper, answer any *three* of the following four topics with several sentences each:

1. Discuss at least three of the conflicts Tom has.
2. Who do you think is the strongest female character in this story and why?
3. Is Twain’s portrayal of “Injun” Joe racist? Why or why not?
4. What are some themes in this story, and are they outdated now, or does the story still have relevance?

List any other books you read this summer on the chart on page 2. Happy reading!

Mrs. Betsy Piper