

SUMMER READING AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL – 2010

Rising 8th Grade Students

Rising 8th graders are required to read **three** books **and** complete assignments for each.

1. Read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.

Assignment

Write **two** paragraphs: one that summarizes *The Outsiders* and one that identifies and explains one theme from the book.

2. Read **one free choice** book; this is a book of your choosing.

Assignment

Write **two** paragraphs: one that summarizes your free choice book and one that identifies and explains one theme from the book.

3. **Choose one group choice book** (listed and described on the following pages). Students will be introduced to these books at school on Wednesday, May 26 and will choose a group choice book on Friday, May 28. Early next fall, students will participate in a discussion that could include students in each grade level. While we have tried to choose books that are appropriate for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, some of the books deal with more mature topics than others. We will have copies of all group books in the Middle School through May 28, and parents are welcome to stop by to preview any book. Students should complete **one** of the following **three** assignments during the summer, which will be used during the book discussion.

Assignment for group choice book:

- Illustrate either in a single picture or in a five frame cartoon one of your favorite scenes and be prepared to explain its significance.
- Write a 100 – 125 word plot summary of the book.
- Write five open-ended discussion questions (not factual questions or questions that seek a “yes” or “no” response). The questions should lead to discussion of ideas or themes that are presented in the book.

GROUP CHOICE BOOKS

Read **one** of the following **books** and do **one** of the **assignments** related to the book.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
<i>Revolution is not a Dinner Party</i>	Ying Chang Compestine
<i>Among the Hidden</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix
<i>The Wednesday Wars</i>	Gary D. Schmidt
<i>Schooled</i>	Gordon Korman
<i>Scat</i>	Carl Hiassen
<i>The Green Glass Sea</i>	Ellen Klages
<i>Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer</i>	Lynne Cox
<i>And Then There were None</i>	Agatha Christie
<i>Book of a Thousand Days</i>	Shannon Hale
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll
<i>The Power of One</i> (Young Readers' Condensed Version)	Bryce Courtenay
<i>Dairy Queen</i>	Catherine Gilbert Murdock
<i>Alabama Moon</i>	Watt Key
<i>Airman</i>	Eoin Colfer
<i>Tarzan of the Apes</i>	Edgar Rice Burroughs

GROUP CHOICE BOOK SUMMARIES

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine

The author of this beautifully written novel draws on her own childhood experiences to tell the sometimes humorous and ultimately hopeful story of a young girl growing up and overcoming challenges during the Cultural Revolution in China.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Government rules limit each family to just two children. Luke, an illegal third-born, lives in secret until he joins Jen, another "shadow child," and together they risk everything to change their lives and society.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

This Newberry Honor novel tells the story of a seventh grade boy in 1967 and his funny and compelling adventures with his English teacher, Shakespeare, Vietnam, baseball, and the family business.

Schooled by Gordon Korman

Cap has been homeschooled by his hippie grandmother. While his grandmother recovers from an injury, he has to live with a foster family and attend the local middle school, where he quickly becomes the butt of jokes. However, he doesn't react as expected, with interesting results.

Scat by Carl Hiassen

Scat is a very funny mystery set in Florida's Everglades. Bestselling author, Hiassen, makes the setting and middle school characters come alive.

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages

This award-winning novel tells the story of 11-year old Dewey Kerrigan who goes to live with her mathematician father in New Mexico, in 1943. She arrives at a town that does not officially exist, Los Alamos, where all the adults are working on a secret project while the children go about their lives.

Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer by Lynne Cox

This classic of sports memoir tells the story of a long-distance swimmer whose perseverance and hard work help her succeed and inspire others.

And Then There were None by Agatha Christie

One of the greatest mystery novel of all time, this book is a masterpiece of murder and suspense. A mysterious host invites ten strangers to an isolated island. The guests share secrets of their pasts as, one by one, they die...

Book of a Thousand Days by Shannon Hale

A Newbery Honor author retells a classic Brothers Grimm tale, setting it in a medieval Asian land. Lady Saren and her maid Dashti are imprisoned in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, which begins a story full of danger, hard choices, adventure, and romance.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

This masterpiece blends logic and silliness in the delightful story of Alice's first visit to Wonderland where she meets the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts.

The Power of One by Bryce Courteney (Young Readers' Condensed Version)

The author condensed the first half of his semi-autobiographical tale to make it appropriate for younger readers. Set in South Africa at the onset of WWII, a brilliant English boy tells his coming of age story. It includes brutal cruelty at the hands of Boer bullies at boarding school, apartheid, boxing, and a single life goal, "the power of one."

Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

While helping to run her family dairy farm, D.J. Schwenk struggles with school work, family, friends, romance, and football! She also learns to speak up for herself in this book full of humor, sports action, and the voice of a highly likable narrator.

Alabama Moon by Watt Key

An ALA Best Book for Young Adults tells the story of Moon Blake who lived with his survivalist father in a shelter in the Alabama forest... until his father died. He tries to follow his father's last instructions to travel to Alaska and find others like himself, encountering many challenges and setbacks.

Airman by Eoin Colfer

The bestselling author of *Artemis Fowl* tells a different kind of adventure-fantasy story set in Ireland in the 1890s. Conor, imprisoned in a brutal jail for a murder he didn't commit, plans an escape so he can return to the kingdom, clear his name, seek revenge, and help his best friend, Princess Isabella.

Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs

This classic of adventure tells the legend of Tarzan who is orphaned as a baby in the African jungle where he is adopted by apes who raise him until he is 18. Then white explorers invade his jungle kingdom, and Tarzan's life changes dramatically.