

8th Grade Summer Reading

You are encouraged to read as much as possible this summer! Just because school is out of session doesn't mean you should stop reading! You know your goal is to read at least 20 minutes a day. Your assignment is to read at least two books this summer and do some written reflection on what you've read. Remember, to really be prepared for 8th grade, you should be reading more than just two books this summer!

Book 1 – Read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

- Paragraph 1 – Write a character description of one of the main characters in the novel. Focus on one character trait. Include at least two specific details that you have paraphrased and analyzed where she shows that trait. [L] [SEP]
- Paragraph 2 – Reflect on what you think the message of the novel is. What does Markus Zusak want you to know and/or learn after reading it? [L] [SEP]

Check to make sure you did the following:

- ✓ Included a topic sentence that includes the author/title of the book.
- ✓ Paraphrased and analyzed specific details from the story that support the main idea. [L] [SEP]
- ✓ Used a transition and concluding sentence to review and restate the topic sentence in a new way.
- ✓ A concluding sentence. [L] [SEP]
- ✓ Used appropriate 8th grade writing skills including paragraph indentation, capitalization, [L] [SEP] punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics and NO PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

Book 2 – Read any book that looks interesting to you! [L] [SEP]

- Write a response to a novel of your choice in the form of a letter to me. The goal is to be a personal *and* critical response to the novel. Think of the novel as a whole, and how you feel about it. Choose at least two different things to reflect on. Suggestions include: What did you learn? What did you notice about the story? The characters? The conflict? The theme/overall message? The time period in which it was set? What surprised you?

Additionally, select at least one passage you think is significant (think about how we've done close readings). This passage might be significant in terms of the above mentioned things related to plot, character, theme, etc.

Possible Sentence Starters:

- I was surprised when/angry about/satisfied with/moved by at
- I liked the way the author
- I don't get why the author
- If I were the author I would have
- I'd compare this story/character/author/theme to
- This book reminds me of
- The main character
- The resolution of the problem
- I wish that
- A theme of this book is
- I didn't agree with
- I couldn't understand
- Why did

Completion of books and written work are due on the first day of school in August. [L] [SEP]