

Summer Reading for Students Entering 8th Grade in 2018

This summer, please try to fit reading into your daily schedule. Students entering 8th grade should aim to read 30 minutes a day. (The beach is a great place to read!)

Assignment: Please read one novel from the list below and answer ONE of the corresponding questions or responses.

Responses should be strongly supported with details from the reading. All responses should be 1-2 pages typed.

Bonus Points are awarded to early submissions! (5 bonus points if e-mailed by July 15th and 3 bonus points by August 1st.) E-mail finished assignments to Mr. Pomeroy at dpomeroy@academyofstthere.com. If you choose NOT to e-mail your assignments, printed copies of your assignments are due on the 1st day of school.

Happy Reading!

Kira Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

1. The word “Kira Kira” means “glittering” in Japanese. What kind of things did Lynn and Katie describe as being “Kira Kira”? What do you think Lynn and Katie meant when they used this word? Can you think of anything you would describe as “Kira Kira”?
2. In what ways did Katie have mixed feelings towards Lynn when Lynn was ill? Has there ever been a time in your own life when you’ve had mixed feelings about someone or about a situation? Explain.
3. What do you believe to be the most valuable message found in this novel? Write an alternate ending that emphasizes this value.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

1. The title of the book comes from one of the mysterious messages Phoebe finds: “Never judge a man until you’ve walked two moons in their moccasins”. In your own words, what does this message mean? Who in the book learns this lesson and how?
2. In chapter 41, Sal remembers the time her dog Moody Blue had puppies. How does she compare Moody Blue’s behavior to her own mother’s? What do we learn about Sal’s mother from this comparison?
3. Sal claims her story is hidden behind Phoebe’s. What do you think she sees means by this? How does Sal’s story emerge through the book?

Warriors Don’t Cry: Searing Memoir of Battle to Integrate Little Rock by Melba Pattillo Beals

1. Melba’s father argues that sacrificing Melba’s life and the safety of those around her have nothing to do with freedom. Then he tells Melba, “You’re too young to be in this kind of mess”. Do you agree or disagree with Melba’s father? Explain your answers.
2. Melba was shocked when she read past diary entries and saw how much she had changed. Explain her growth throughout the novel.
3. At the end of the novel, Melba reflects that, “We are not separate. The effort to separate whether by race, creed, color, religion, or status is as costly to the separator as to those who would be separated”. Reflect on this statement; do you agree? How is it “Costly to the separator”?

War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

1. Criticize or defend H.G. Wells' conclusion to the Martians' invasion. Was the Martians' defeat appropriate or should the novel have ended differently? What does the ending say about the control humans have over life?
2. In Well's novel, after the Martians have died, the protagonist reflects upon how similar the Martian's attack was to the destruction that people have wrought upon one another. Discuss some examples from history in which one group of people has attempted to destroy another group of people. What, if anything, could be done to try to prevent such acts from happening in the future?
3. Wells attended the Normal School of Science where he became a biologist. His prime passions, however, remained reading and writing. What effect did this combination of interests have on H.G. Wells' style as a writer?

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

1. In literature Romanticism refers to writing in which form is less important than content, that emphasizes imagination, emotion, and introspection. It often celebrates nature, the average person and freedom of spirit. Tell why Treasure Island is considered a Romantic novel
2. Select any scene in the novel that represents a moment of high tension and excitement. Write about this event from the point of view of three different characters. Try to capture the personality of the narrator as you write.
3. In this novel, characters are either good or bad, no one has both characteristics, and no one truly changes during the course of the novel. Explain who was good and who was bad. Why might the author have chosen to create such characters?

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

Compare how women in The Good Earth were treated in their Chinese society to the women's roles in present day society. Investigate how women were treated by men in that time period. Would you be able to endure life in a society with those types of beliefs?

