**8th Grade Outside Reading Requirements**

*“Few young people learn to love books by themselves.*

*Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word;*

*someone has to show them the way.”*

*~ Orville Prescott ~*

It is well documented that reading enhances a student’s learning and his/her ability to learn. Reading improves one’s ability to process and to reason, which are critical for high levels of understanding. Reading also improves writing skills and the entire writing process. In addition, it adds meaning to self-understanding. Clearly, reading benefits a student’s world and the broader world of which we are all a part. One of the goals of eighth grade is to help students develop and maintain a habit of reading regularly.

Due to the importance of reading, you will be expected to do outside reading each semester of your 8th-grade year (much like the requirements for 6th and 7th grade). You will choose your own reading material for outside reading and are encouraged to share your choice of book with your parent/guardian to check for appropriateness. We have outlined the guidelines for you below. Please read them carefully so that you understand them.

**\*Your outside reading pages will be recorded from your weekly log and put into the literature grade book under “reading week of 2/8”, missing logs will be recorded as “M” (which calculates as a 0).**

**OUTSIDE READING GUIDELINES:**

1. Must read **250 pages per week** and keep track on a **reading log**. We know students read at different speeds and if you consider yourself a slow reader, please talk to Mrs. Eusebio directly for suggestions.
2. Book must be fiction (no graphic novels) or non-fiction (**non-fiction counts as double** the pages, since it is a more difficult genre of reading). The reading you do in class for **literature, social studies, and religion** may also be counted and **calculated as double** the pages. **Magazines, newspapers, and websites** may also be counted as **double**, since they are most often non-fiction, and you will be using them to do research for projects.
3. Select books at your interest and **reading level**. Please choose books that your family considers appropriate. If you are unsure about a particular book, please show it to your parents first.
4. **Twice each month** (by the last school day of that month), you will need to **complete a project activity** for a book you read that month (so **two book reports total per month**). Please don’t save both until the end of the month, if possible. I have provided a list of ideas, but **if you have your own creative idea, that would be okay**, too. You may not choose the same activity from the list more than twice (e.g., you can only do two bookmarks total – and they should be **substantive!**).
5. Bring your outside reading book to school each day, in case there is free time to read.
6. Check your outside reading grade each week in the online grade book under “literature”**.** Like any other grade, these will average out and affect your final literature grade.
7. Please bring your reading log (signed by a parent/guardian) to school **each Monday** and turn in to me. You may pick up a new log each Monday to use that week. Having your progress marked weekly in the grade book will help to prevent any surprises at semester’s end. I will provide a new reading log each week.

Have **FUN** and **ENJOY** your reading!

**READING ACTIVITY**

**Directions:** You are responsible for completing **two activities each month** for the books you read for your outside reading requirements. Choose one activity to complete for one book, and one activity for another book (even if you read more than two books, just choose two to complete an activity). **You may not choose a book we read together in class**, since we will already have discussed that book. I have provided a list of activities from which to choose, although **if you have other ideas, feel free to be creative**. You will receive a **grade (20 pts. possible) for each book report activity** you complete in the literature section of the grade book. Projects must be/have:

* completed neatly and to the best of your ability;
* correct grammar usage, sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation;
* creative thinking and effort put toward creating attractive and neat presentation;
* well-explained ideas using text support and detailed examples from your novel;
* specific examples and text support referred to from events, characters and settings throughout the novel.

\*I will return any book projects that do not meet the above requirements and ask you to re-do them.

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| **Character defense**- Pretend you are a character in the book. As the character, defend your actions. Why did you choose to make the decisions you did? Make a 2-sided chart and select 5 occurrences in the book to be written on the left side. On the right side, write a 3-5 sentence explanation of your actions. | **Soundtrack** – Create a soundtrack for your novel. Choose any two appropriate songs that represent the theme, conflict, or setting of your novel. Explain in a paragraph the reasoning for your choices and how it connects to the events or characters in the novel. Include the title and lyrics for each song. |
| **Newspaper-** Create a newspaper page based on events from the novel. The newspaper page might include weather reports, an editorial or editorial cartoon, news events, sports events, etc. The title of the newspaper should be relevant to the theme of the book. Use Who What, Where, When, Why, and How questions to guide your writing. Also, the major conflict and events should be reported in the paper. | **Bookmark –** Create a bookmark (3”x7”) using construction paper or a manila folder. Write the title, author, and brief paragraph review of the novel. On the other side of the bookmark, illustrate a picture that depicts an event or a major character. Also, include an important quote that represents your character. It may be something that the character stated or a statement that represents the theme of the novel. |
| **Book Review-** Write a review of your novel worthy of posting to an online review site (you don’t need to actually post it). Give two opinions about the novel and cite examples using quotations from the novel to support your opinion. Include supporting details explaining why you would recommend this novel and what audience you think the novel is written for (e.g., what age group and why). | **Comic Book/Graphic Novel-** Choose an event or scene from your novel and create a ten square slot graphic novel storyboard. Be sure to include two major characters involved in a conflict, how the conflict progressed, and how the conflict was resolved. Story boxes should be neat, creative, and colorful and show your intricate design and effort. |
| **You magically become a character in your novel -** Pretend you could magically enter your novel. Write a short essay explaining what event, setting or conflict you would enter and why. How would your being there change the story? How would you connect yourself to the characters? Minimum a three-paragraph entry. | **Hallmark card-** You are now a member of the Hallmark Card Corporation. You are responsible for designing a greeting card for one of your novel’s characters. Choose a theme based on your novel. The greeting card should include a six- to eight-sentence greeting on the inside. The front cover should have a design based on a setting or event from your novel. Be sure to include your name, the novel’s title and author, as well as the name of your production company on the back of your card. |
| **Reading Journal/Diary** -Your reading journal diary must be written as if you are one of the major characters from your chosen novel. Your journal/diary must have at least 10 entries (each entry must be a minimum of two paragraphs). Each entry must signify an important event or conflict that occurred in the novel. Text examples should support all of your entries. | **PowerPoint Novel Trailer** – Create a PowerPoint Novel Trailer (like a movie trailer) with a minimum of 8-10 slides. Follow these directions:  Slide one - includes title, author, and your name. Also, include a picture symbol of your novel.  Slide two- Create a slide that depicts the setting of the novel.  Slides 3-5 at least one slide each to represent two of the main characters of your novel.  Slides 6-8 – discuss the plot and conflict of the novel – do not give away the end. |
| **Letters/Postcards** – As one of the main characters of your novel, you are to create five letters/postcards to another character in the novel. The letters/postcards should explain the events, places, or conflicts from the novel. Each entry must be a minimum of two paragraphs. | **Collage** – Create a collage: Cut and paste pictures from clip art of old magazines to represent the literary elements (character, setting, events, conflict(s), climax, resolution, themes, etc.) for your novel. Use a poster board for the collage. Be sure to include the author, novel title and any other vocabulary that represent your characters – this can include important quotes from the novel. |

Remember - the sky’s the limit. You may choose your own project idea, but it must be **substantive**. You may want to search for ideas online and run your idea by me first, although as long as it follows the bullet-pointed list of expectations above, it should be good. Good luck!