

Summer Reading Assignments for Grade 8

Assignment #1

1. Choose a book from the attached list to read.
2. As you read, complete the attached Characterization Sheet. Note: “Direct Characterization” means the character traits that the author states directly (e.g., “Peter was a quiet young man.”)
3. Write a book report that is to include the following:
 - An introduction
 - A 2-paragraph summary of the book including basic information about the characters, the plot, the setting, the conflict and the resolution.
 - A detailed character analysis of the main character in the book you chose.
 - (a) That section should address:
 - ✓ What the character looks like
 - ✓ The character’s personality traits (ex., friendly, shy, brave)
 - ✓ How the character changed from the beginning of the book to the end and why that change occurred
 - (b) You should support your statements with quotes or examples from the book such as:
 - ✓ What the character says
 - ✓ What the character does
 - ✓ What is said about the character
 - ✓ What happens to the character
 - A conclusion that includes some characteristics of the book as a whole and what you thought of the book.

Assignment #2

1. Choose another book from the attached book list.

Write a detailed analysis of the theme and conflict(s) in the book.

- The theme of the book (What is the theme? Support your idea with quotes or examples.)
- The conflict in the book. (What type was it? How is it important to the story?)

Theme – An implicit or recurrent idea that runs through the book

Conflict – Opposition between characters or forces in a work of fiction, especially opposition that motivates or shapes the action of the plot (Examples of types of conflict include man vs. man, man vs. himself, man vs. nature, man vs. God.)

Your analysis should have an introductory and a concluding paragraph and you should be sure to include good support from the book in order to receive credit.

8th Grade Summer Reading List

Around the World in 80 Days, Jules Verne
The Cross and the Switchblade, David Wilkerson
Calico Captive, Elizabeth George Speare
Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
Up From Slavery, Booker T. Washington
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
A Day No Pigs Would Die, Robert Newton Peck
Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
David Copperfield, Charles Dickens
The Light Princess, George MacDonald
After the Dancing Days, Margaret Rostkowski
The Swiss Family Robinson, Johann David Wyss
Up the Road Slowly, Irene Hunt
The Scarlet Pimpernel, Baroness Emmuska Orczy
Eagle of the Ninth, Rosemary Sutcliff
Journey to the Center of the Earth, Jules Verne
The Plain Princess, Phyliss McGinley
Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle
The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Watership Down, Richard Adams
Summer of My German Soldier, Bette Greene
The Lord of the Rings trilogy, J.R.R. Tolkein
The Three Musketeers, Alexandre Dumas
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Jules Verne

Please check with Mrs. Dant at Campus 1 during the summer at 301-725-4673 BEFORE choosing a book not on the list.

Characterization Chart

Name: _____

Character: _____

Novel: _____

S peech	What does the character say? How does the character speak?
T houghts	What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?
E ffect on others; their reaction to the character.	What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?
A ctions	What does the character do? How does the character behave?
L ooks	What does the character look like? How does the character dress?

Type of Characterization	Examples	Explanation
Speech		
Thoughts		
Effect on others		
Actions		
Looks		

Direct Characterization *tells* the audience what the personality of the character is.

Example: "The patient boy and quiet girl were both well
mannered and did not disobey their mother."

Examples	Explanation