

St. Paul's Episcopal School

6th-8th Grades

Required Summer Assignments

2017-2018

Summer Reading: Sixth through eighth grade students will complete a book review (for the required and self-selected reading) and take a reading check test on the required book when they return to school.

Skills Review Packet: They will also be given a skills review packet to complete over the summer. This will be collected, along with the book reviews, for a grade on the first day of school.

Sixth Grade

Holes

ISBN 0440419468

Sachar, Louis

Seventh Grade

The Call of the Wild

ISBN 0812504321 (unabridged)

London, Jack

Eighth Grade

Animal Farm

ISBN 1595404295

Orwell, George

Summer Reading
St. Paul's Episcopal School
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Required Reading Assignments

This summer, you are required to read two books. One title has been selected for you and you will be given a short reading check test at the beginning of the school year; additionally, you will select a second title that is an age appropriate novel. You will write a book review for each selection, which is due the first day of school. Each review must be in MLA format: one page, typed, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, and 1" margins (see example). The review **should be no longer** than one page.

Each book review is to give a brief summary of the book and your opinion of the book. Use the following guidelines to help you write your essay.

Summary

The summary is a very brief outline of what happened in the story. Follow these steps when writing a summary for a book review:

- ❖ Your first sentence should include the name of the book, the genre of the book, and the author of the book.
- ❖ Introduce the main character(s) and the setting in one sentence.
- ❖ In four to six sentences, write a plot summary. What is the story about? When you write the summary, remember you are just trying to hit the highlights of the story.
- ❖ Your last sentence should include the theme of the story. What did the author want you to realize once you were finished reading?

Critique

Once the summary of the book is written, explain what you thought about the book. You are allowed to express any opinion you have, but you need to offer support for your opinion by providing an example from the book. Below are some questions that may help you get started with your critique.

- ❖ Did you enjoy the story? Why or why not?
- ❖ Were the characters interesting and believable? Did you have a favorite character?
- ❖ How did the story make you feel?
- ❖ What was your favorite part or least favorite part of the story?
- ❖ Was the book easy to read or difficult to understand?

The conclusion should have one or two sentences that express your overall opinion of the book and what you want others to know about the book. Your final sentence should discuss whether or not you would recommend this book to a friend.

Your Name

Teacher

Language Arts

Due Date

Title of Book

My Sister's Keeper is a work of fiction written by Jodi Picoult. This story is a present day flashback that takes place in Rhode Island and tells the story of Kate and Anna Fitzgerald who are both fighting for their lives. Kate has leukemia, and in order to survive she needs her sister Anna to be a donor. Anna did not mind donating blood, bone marrow, or other bodily substances, but when her parents told her she had to donate a kidney to Kate, Anna decided to sue for medical emancipation. Throughout the entire novel, Anna's mom tries to convince Anna to drop the lawsuit, but Anna refuses. During the trial, Anna reveals the only reason she decided to sue for medical emancipation was because she was asked to by Kate. *My Sister's Keeper* tries to answer what it means to be a good person.

This book captured my attention from the first page to the last with my favorite part of the book being when Anna and Kate were able to just be sisters. When they were able to fight over personal space or when they shared a laugh while on a blanket under the sun, it reminded me of my own sister. Although the premise of the book is not a topic everyone can associate with, there is still something in this book that most people can relate to. Maybe you have an unbreakable bond with someone and you would do anything for that person. Perhaps you know what it is like to struggle between being an individual while trying to be part of the family. This book is a passionate, emotional, powerful story of love. I loved reading this book, and I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a heart wrenching story about trying to make the right choice when it seems like every choice is the wrong one.

**Mrs. Olivier
Language Arts
Book Review Grading Rubric**

| | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Summary | Accurately portrays what happened in book. Summary consists of major themes, characters, and ideas. | Accurately portrays what happened in book. Summary is missing one component. | Somewhat accurately portrays what happened in book. Summary is missing two components. | What book did you read again? |
| Critique or Recommendation | Consists of thoughts, responses, and reactions to novel. Discusses the overall failure or success of the book with supporting evidence. | Consists of thoughts and reactions to novel. Discusses the overall failure or success of the book with supporting evidence. | Consists of thoughts to novel. Discusses the overall failure or success of the book with supporting evidence. | No opinion is expressed and/or no supportive evidence is written. |
| Organization | Structure of paper flows and sequence of topics is in logical order. | Structure of paper is understood, yet sequence of topics is not in logical order. | Difficulty understanding if I am reading the summary or your review. | Summary and reviews are mixed in one big paragraph. |
| Mechanics | Uses complete sentences and excellent word choice. | Uses complete sentences and basic word choice. | Uses mostly complete sentences and basic word choice. | Uses fragments and lacks word choice. |
| Spelling | Mostly errorless-0-3 errors. | Somewhat errorless-4-6 errors. | Slightly errorless-7-9 errors. | You may need a dictionary. |

6-8 Recommended Reading List

For their optional reading, students may select any title, but they may consult this list if they find suggestions helpful. Although some sections are designated for one grade level or another, students may choose a book from any of the lists. Those titles grouped by grade may suggest an appropriate reading level or connection to our social studies curriculum for that grade level, but all novels are possible choices. Enjoy your summer reading adventure!

6-8

Walk Two Moons or any book by Sharon Creech

Al Capone series by Choldenko

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane or
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Sing Down the Moon or *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
by Scott O'Dell

Any book by Gary Paulsen

Any Book by Mike Lupica

Black Beauty by Sewell

The Girl who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Tru and Nelle by G. Neri

A Dog's Purpose W. Bruce Cameron

White Fang by Jack London

Chester and Gus by Cammie McGovern

Roll of Thunder, Here My Cry by Mildred Taylor

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Watson's go to Birmingham or Bud, Not Buddy
by Christopher Paul Curtis

When you Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

Zahra's Paradise (graphic novel) by Amir

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Airman or the *Artemis Fowl Series* by Eoin Colfer

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

The I Funny series by James Patterson

Fablehaven Series by Brandon Mull

Gathering Blue and Messenger by Lois Lowry

The Kane Chronicles, Percy Jackson Series, or
Heroes of Olympus Series by Rick Riordan

Biography of Walt Disney by Bob Thomas

The Alex Rider series by Horowitz

The Great Wide Sea by Herlong

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Houston

Hiroshima by John Hersey

Journey to Topaz: A Story of the Japanese American Evacuation by Yoshika Uchida

Nothing by Janne Teller and Martin Aitkin
Freedom Riders by Raymond Arsenault

Chains, or Forge, or Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Economix: How Our Economy Works (and Doesn't Work), in Words and Pictures by Michael Goodwin (graphic novel)

A Young People's History of the United States (volumes 1 & 2) by Howard Zinn

Students for a Democratic Society (graphic novel) by Harvey Pekar

The Cartoon History of the Modern World (graphic novel) by Larry Gonick

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children series by Ransom Riggs

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Elsewhere Series by Jacqueline West

The Wish by Gail Carson Levine

Tiger's Curse series by Colleen Houck

The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series by Michael Scott

Eight Keys by Suzanne LaFleur

Double by Jenny Valentine

The March series by John Lewis, Aydin, and Powell (graphic novel)

Boxers & Saints by Gene Luen Yang (graphic novel)

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang (graphic novel)

The Mortal Instruments or The Infernal Devices series by Cassandra Clare

The Maze Runner series by James Dashner

The Divergent Series by Veronica Roth

The Matched Series by Ally Condie

The Lord of the Rings series – Tolkien

Any book by Scott Westerfeld

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card