

Name : _____

St. Paul's Episcopal School 8th Grade Required Summer Reading Assignments

This summer, you are required to read two books. One title has been selected for you (*Animal Farm*), and you will be given a short reading check assessment at the beginning of the school year; additionally, you will select a second title that is an age appropriate novel (recommendations below). You will write a book review for your self-selected novel, which is due the first day of school with your skills review packet. Your 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.

Your 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 (worth 2 pts each component)

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(worth 2 pts each component)

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 (**worth 2 pts**) 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.

Correct Capitalization, Punctuation, Spelling, and Grammar= 5 pts.

A sample book review is included.

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 than 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.

Recommended Summer Reading List 8th

You are **NOT** required to choose from this list, but here are some suggestions:

Adventure and Mystery

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
Storm Warriors by Elisa Carbone
Take Me to the River by Will Hobbs
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Animal Stories

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
Beastly Brains: Exploring How Animals Think, Talk, and Feel by Nancy Castaldo (nonfiction)

Sci-fi and Fantasy

Uglies Trilogy by Scott Westerfield
Divergent Series by Veronica Roth
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Children of Blood and Bone or Children of Virtue and Vengeance by Tomi Adeyemi

Facing Difficult Circumstances

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
The First Rule of Punk by Celia Perez
Okay for Now by Gary D. Schmidt
Rain Reign Ann M. Martin

Sports

Crossover and/or Rebound (prequel) by Kwame Alexander
A Matter of Heart by Amy Fellner Dominy
Tangerine by Edward Bloor
Friday Night Lights by Buzz Bisinger

Historical Fiction

The Storyteller's Daughter by Jean Thesman
Breaking Stalin's Nose by Eugene Yelchin
Ties that Bind, Ties that Break by Lensey Namioka
Song of the Buffalo Boy by Sherry Garland
The Watsons go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Revolution is not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia
Any of The Sixties Trilogy (Countdown, Revolution, Anthem) by Deborah Wiles

Nonfiction- These titles also correspond to the social studies curriculum.

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia by Candace Fleming
Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin by James Swanson