

8th Grade Summer Reading

As you begin your summer break it is still important to keep your mind active and gain knowledge. Over summer break you will read two summer reading books. The assignments associated with the novels, are meant to keep you engaged while reading.

Your mandatory summer reading novel is *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne

Mr. Phileas Fogg is a wealthy man living in London who is part of the Reform Club, an elite social organization. He has recently hired a new domestic servant, a Frenchman name Jean Passepartout. While at the Reform Club, he makes a bet with the other club members that it is possible to go around the world by train and steamer in just eighty days, and that he himself can do it. Since 20,000 pounds are at stake, he fetches Passepartout and they head out to try and complete the difficult feat.

Below are the optional summer reading books, you must choose one to read and complete the “your choice” summer reading book report.

***Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley and Ron Powers**

In February 1945, American Marines plunged not the surf at Iwo Jima, and into history. Through a hail of machine gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island’s highest peak and raised the American flag.

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**

When Santiago, a young shepherd boy from the Spanish countryside of Andalusia, has a dream that reveals the location of a hidden treasure buried at the Egyptian Pyramids his simple life is suddenly torn in two. Part of him wants to take the chance to go searching for it and the other part of him wants to continue his easy life as a shepherd.

***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne**

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea is about the adventures of Captain nemo and his crew aboard the submarine, Nautilus. One day, ships start sinking, particularly ones dealing with war. Survivors this it is a big whale. A harpoon ship goes out to kill it but finds out that the whale is the Nautilus.

***The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom**

Father Time, the inventor of the world’s first clock, is punished for trying to measure God’s greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for eternity, to hear the voices of all who come after him seeking more time. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, a magical hourglass, and a mission: to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people- a troubled teen girl and a dying billionaire- the true meaning of time. To save himself, he must save them both.

Summer Reading Report for "your choice book"

Name: _____ Class: _____

First read the entire assignment before beginning your reading. The assignment is designed to help you analyze the novel as you read. You will need to be aware of main characters, themes, plot, and setting.

Title of Book: _____ Author: _____

Novel Prediction: Based on the title, picture, and anything else on the cover, what do you think the book will be above. _____

List 6 words in the novel, that were either new to you or interesting. List the word and its meaning.

1. _____ :
2. _____ :
3. _____ :
4. _____ :
5. _____ :
6. _____ :

Characterization: Pick 2 main characters and list a minimum of 5 traits or each character

1. _____ :

2. _____ :

Climax: What was the major turning point of the novel, describe the cause and effect surrounding it.

Conflict: What was the major conflict of your novel, and how did the main character react to the conflict? It does not have to be a fight between characters but can be a struggle that the protagonist faces. (man vs man, man vs self, man vs nature)

Theme: What was the theme of the book? You need to explain why you chose this as the theme, what happened within the novel that brought you to this decision? Sometimes there is more than one theme, pick the one that resonates the most with you. Remember the theme is not a summary of the plot, but the message that you should take away from the story. (courage of the human spirit never give up and work hard to persevere, love will find a way)

Authors Purpose: What was the purpose of the novel? Write one or two reasons you believe the author wrote the novel, and why.

To entertain, to amuse, to show, to describe, to persuade, to detail history, to educate, to lift up, there are many more.
