

Central Junior High 8th-Grade Summer Reading 2019

Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light.
–Vera Nazarian

Learning to read books for pleasure opens doors of discovery and, research shows, is critical for student success in *all* academic areas. Reading for pleasure increases fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and sense of sentence structure, along with the abilities to infer, visualize, and make connections. Incoming 8th-grade students are encouraged to read novels throughout the summer. To help you get started, 7th graders will be given a book of their choice. Any genre is acceptable for the remaining book(s).

Summer Reading Assignment

- ✓ Read *at least* two (2) books this summer.
- ✓ **As you finish *each* book, complete information on the back of this form.**
- ✓ **For each book, complete one (1) of the following *Response Activities*:**
 1. **Character Journal-** A character journal is a journal/diary written from the perspective of a character in a book. The reader writes in the first-person voice of the character in response to the unfolding of events in the book, much like a personal journal/diary you might keep for yourself. A character journal helps you as a reader CONNECT with a character. It proves your understanding of what a character goes through – thoughts, actions, emotions, hopes, feelings, plans. The character must express his/her inner feelings about what is happening to him/her. In keeping a character journal, the reader becomes more involved in the literature being read and attains a deeper immersion in the role of the character.
Directions- Your character journal must include at least four entries; each entry must be at least 200 words in length. Each entry must be original. Grades will be based on the quality of writing, the chances taken, and the degree to which you are able to capture the character or show insight into the character’s plight.
 2. **Letter to the Author-** Write a letter of at least 500 words in which you discuss the author’s work. Your letter should include at least one of the following: Discussion /question about theme, Discussion/ question about character , Discussion/question about setting , and Discussion/question about the author’s inspiration for the story.
Directions- Even though the letter is relatively informal, it must be written in well-organized paragraphs. Every point you make or question you have should be supported with a specific textual reference, including a direct quote and page number. If you praise the author, explain what specific choices the author made and explain how it contributed to the novel’s effectiveness. If you want to complain about something, the same holds true. Cite a specific choice that you think did not work effectively and explain why it didn’t work. Your grade will be based on the thoughtfulness of your responses
- ✓ Keep in mind—the books you read during the summer will count toward your 8th-grade Total Books Read as we set goals for the following school year.

Reading for Pleasure

The most important consideration when Reading for Pleasure is for students to choose books and novels they care about. Many awards given to YAL novels are based on appeal to young and reluctant readers. Therefore, you might be interested in checking out the award lists found at www.ala.org/yalsa .

Fill in the information below and return this page along with your activity booklet to your Reading teacher at the beginning of the school year.

**See the EXAMPLE below.

Student Name _____

***Title One (1):** _____

Author: _____ **Date Finished:** _____

Gist Statement (Explain *who* wanted *what where*, *what* got in the way, and *why* does that matter.):

***Title Two (2):** _____

Author: _____ **Date Finished:** _____

Gist Statement (Explain *who* wanted *what where*, *what* got in the way, and *why* does that matter.):

**At least two books must be read over the summer. But studies show that if you read at least five (5), you are more likely to maintain the fluency and comprehension gains you achieved over the previous school year.*

Title Three (3): _____

Author: _____ **Date Finished:** _____

Gist Statement (Explain *who* wanted *what where*, *what* got in the way, and *why* does that matter.):

Title Four (4): _____

Author: _____ **Date Finished:** _____

Gist Statement (Explain *who* wanted *what where*, *what* got in the way, and *why* does that matter.):

Title Five (5): _____

Author: _____ **Date Finished:** _____

Gist Statement (Explain *who* wanted *what where*, *what* got in the way, and *why* does that matter.):

If you have questions, please contact Jenni Walker or Amber Gravitt.

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