

Summer Reading Assignment

Pick a character from any one of your summer reading selections. Ideally, you would pick a character that is featured prominently in your book. As you read, take notes about what this character is like. Do not limit your notes to physical descriptions; you should, by the end of your reading, really know about who your character is, what their personality is like, what makes them tick, etc. Getting to know your character is extremely important for the next part of this assignment.

Pick your favorite story. This can be a book, a movie, a play, or any kind of work that features a setting, characters, and a plot. In essay form, tell me about your choice, and summarize the important details of your choice (characters, setting, plot, etc.), but focus mainly on the plot. After your summary, you will then replace the main character of your favorite story with the chosen character from your summer reading novel.

Your job, in the next part of your essay, is to tell me how your character would behave in the novel you've placed them in. How would they interact with the other characters? How would their existence in the world of the story change that story? Would the story end the same way? These are just some of the questions your essay should address. This is why you need to really get to know your character, so you can make some solid predictions about how they would change the story you place them in. I will be checking your essay against your character notes in order to confirm that your predictions are based on what the character is actually like.

Consider the following:

Let's say I drop Harry Potter into the world of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In *Huckleberry Finn*, the world is very different. For one, it takes place in America in the 1800's, a setting vastly different than Harry's modern day England. Furthermore, magic, an extremely important element in the HP universe, does not exist in Huckleberry's world. These two differences alone would cause Harry to act and behave quite differently in Huck's story, and would likely lead to a very different plot altogether. Those differences in the character's behavior and how the story would play out would be the main concern of my essay.

The essay and the notes you take on your character will be due, typed and printed, on the first day of class. There is no length requirement, but you need to write as much as it takes to fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

Have a great summer!



Topeka Collegiate School
Summer Reading Book List

Middle School

6th Grade (required) Reading for in-coming 6th graders includes 3 novels:

Under The Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury

or

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

and

two more novels of your choice. These may be selected from the Newbery Award list, the Michael L. Printz Award list, or other selection of your choosing.

7th Grade (required) Reading for in-coming 7th graders includes 3 novels:

Nothing But the Truth by Avi

and

two more novels of your choice. These may be selected from the Newbery Award list, the Michael L. Printz Award list, or other selection of your choosing.

8th Grade (required) Reading for in-coming 8th graders includes 3 novels:

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

or

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

or

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

and

two more novels of your choice. These may be selected from the Newbery Award list, the Michael L. Printz Award list, or other selection of your choosing.



NEWBERY AWARD BOOKS

2019 Medal Winner: *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina

Honor Books: *The Night Diary*, by Veera Hiranandani

The Book of Boy, by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

2018 Winner: *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly

2017 Winner: *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill

2016 Winner: *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

2015 Winner: *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

2014 Winner: *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo

2013 Winner: *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

2012 Winner: *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos

2011 Winner: *Moon Over Manifest* by Claire Vanderpool

2010: Winner: *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

2009: Winner: *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

2008: Winner: *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Schlitz

2007: Winner: *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron

2006: Winner: *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins

2005: Winner: *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadhata

2004: Winner: *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story ... of Thread* by Kate DiCamillo

2003: Winner: *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi

2002: Winner: *A Single Shared* by Linda Sue Park

MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD BOOKS

2019 Medal Winner – *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

2019 Honor Books – *Damsel* by Elana K. Arnold

A Heart in a Body in the World by Deb Caletti

I, Claudia by Mary McCoy

2018 winner – *We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour

2017 winner - *March: Book Three* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

2016 winner – *Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby

2015 winner – *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson

2014 winner – *Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick

2013 winner – *In Darkness* by Nick Lake

2012 winner – *Where Things Come Back* by John Corey Whaley

2011 winner – *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi

2010 winner – *Going Bovine* by Libba Bray

2009 winner – *Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta

2008 winner – *The White Darkness* by Geraldine McCaughrean

2007 winner – *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

2006 winner – *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

2005 winner – *How I live Now* by Meg Rosoff

2004 winner – *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson

2003 winner – *Postcards from No Man's Land* by Aidan Chambers

2002 winner – *A Step from Heaven* by An Na

2001 winner – *Kit's Wilderness* by David Almond