

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

"Character Development"

"How does the protagonist or main character develop or change throughout your novel?"

I. Why do we require summer reading?

Due to school buildings being closed and working remotely, we believe more strongly than ever that all students need to be able to read and write effectively to prepare for the upcoming school year and to be lifelong learners. Summer reading encourages students to maintain skills learned in school.

Through their summer reading, students will be observing how authors create characters that develop and change throughout a novel and learn lessons that connect to the novel's overall theme. Analyzing a character's development throughout a story will enable students to remember key points of their reading and will assist them in the writing activity that will take place at the beginning of the school year.

II. What are our goals and objectives for summer reading?

- To encourage students to read closely and focus on character development
- To assess writing strengths and weaknesses
- To maintain skills learned prior to summer

III. Assignment for ALL Middle School Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8

Choose an appropriate novel (either from the Suggested Book List OR one of Your Choice) that is within your reading level, describes a strong protagonist (main character), and is new to you (Do not read a book that you have read before). As you read, pay attention to how the events propel the protagonist to develop and change throughout the novel. It is important to note lessons learned and the overall development of that person.

***Incoming 8th graders are required to choose a novel based on History (Fiction or Nonfiction), either from the given list or of your choosing. The *items on the list are considered historical based novels.

Attached are two character development graphic organizers. You may choose whichever organizer appeals to you. It must be completed in detail and will be taken as a grade in your ELA classes. It's

important to take your time, be detailed and thoughtful in your written responses, and write neatly. Feel free to **TYPE** the character development information and attach it to the graphic organizer on return to school in the fall. This organizer will also be used as a reference for an in class assignment within the first month of school.

*** MIDDLE SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE-- We would like to see students read more than one book over the summer. There is a reading challenge through Commonlit.com at https://www.commonlit.org/en/parents_and_guardians . This website will provide high interest reading lists for your child. You may use this platform or create your own reading log. We challenge you to read as many age-appropriate novels as you can. All logs that have a parent signature will be entered into a raffle for gift cards. Are you up for the "Reading Challenge?" **Ready, Set, READ!**

A List of "Suggested" Character Development Titles

Fiction	*Nonfiction* (Any of these are good for 8th graders, too)
<i>Hunger Games (series)</i>	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>
<i>Maze Runner (series)</i>	<i>A Long Way Gone</i>
<i>Divergent (series)</i>	<i>Unbroken</i>
<i>Twilight (series)</i>	<i>Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell</i>
<i>Hatchet</i>	<i>Bartoletti--2007 Newbery Honor</i>
<i>Among the Hidden</i>	<i>Lincoln: A Photobiography--Newbery Honor.</i>
<i>Call it Courage*</i>	<i>The Freedom Summer Murders by Don Mitchell</i>
<i>Robinson Crusoe*</i>	<i>Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Beals</i>
<i>The 5th Wave</i>	<i>Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks</i>
<i>Fever 1793*</i>	<i>Guts by Gary Paulsen</i>
<i>The One and Only Ivan</i>	<i>Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson</i>
<i>City of Ember</i>	<i>Alive by Piers Paul Read</i>
<i>Ender's Game</i>	<i>Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story by Sandra NEil</i>
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows*</i>	<i>Wallace Rich Wallace</i>
<i>Old Yeller*</i>	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming by Woodson Jacqueline</i>
<i>The Yearling*</i>	<i>Hidden Figures:The Untold True Story of Four African Women</i>
<i>Tangerine</i>	<i>Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space by Margot Lee</i>
<i>Out of the Dust*</i>	<i>Shetterly</i>
<i>Wringer by Jerry Spinelli</i>	<i>We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance</i>
<i>Crossover by Kwame Alexander</i>	<i>Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman</i>
<i>El Deafo by Cece Bell</i>	<i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler:Knud Peterson and the Churchill</i>
<i>Bomb: the Race to Steal the World's Most Dangerous</i>	<i>Club by Philip Hoose</i>
<i>by Steve Sheinkin*</i>	<i>Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin</i>
<i>If I Stay by Gayle Forman</i>	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank</i>
<i>Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys*</i>	<i>Trapped by Marc Aaronson</i>
<i>Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton</i>	<i>The 57 Bus: A True Story about Two Teenagers and the Crime</i>
<i>That Was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton</i>	<i>that Changed their Lives by Dashka Slater</i>
<i>So Far from the Bamboo Grove*</i>	<i>I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed</i>
<i>The Bonesetter's Daughter*</i>	

<p><i>The Clay Marble*</i></p> <p><i>Alone Together by Sarah Donovan</i></p> <p><i>Dreams of Gold-Anne O'Neil</i></p> <p><i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII by Joseph Bruchac*</i></p> <p><i>The Breadwinner*</i></p> <p><i>The Storm in the Barn</i></p> <p><i>Rules</i></p> <p><i>A Break with Charity*</i></p> <p><i>A Long Way from Chicago*</i></p> <p><i>Mockingbird</i></p> <p><i>Sixth Grade Secrets</i></p> <p><i>Prisoner-B-3087*</i></p> <p><i>The Boy Who Dared*</i></p> <p><i>Refugee by Alan Graz*</i></p>	<p><i>the World by Malala Yousafzai</i></p> <p><i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson</i></p> <p><i>Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Ji Jiang</i></p> <p><i>Chinese Cinderella-Adeline Yen Mah</i></p> <p><i>The Boys in the Boat-Dan Brown</i></p>
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These book titles, both content and reading level, may not be appropriate for all students. Parents, please preview your child's choice(s) before committing.

Character Development

As you read, fill out the following traits about the main character in your novel. Use specific details.
The use of extra paper is allowed if needed.

