

7th & 8th Grade Summer Reading Journal

Hello, rising seventh and eighth graders!

This summer, build a habit of reading. Finish at least one of the books listed below.

- Hint for success: set a goal for yourself. What amount of time will you dedicate to reading or how many pages will you turn?

For example, Miss Gibson is dedicating at least 20 minutes a day, 6 days of the week.

Step One: Choose ONE of the following books to read:

Note- Books can be ordered online. Barnes and Noble has them all, but other sites will as well.

- ***Children of the Fox* by Kevin Sands**
 - Fantasy; adventure; part of a series; male and female protagonists
- ***Farewell Cuba, Mi Isla* by Alexandra Diaz**
 - Historical fiction 1960; family & friendship; female protagonist
- ***Hamra and the Jungle of Memories* by Hanna Alkaf**
 - Asian culture; family; retelling; female protagonist
- ***The Labors of Hercules Beal* by Gary D. Schmidt**
 - Realistic fiction; adventure; folklore/myth; male protagonist
- ***The Patron Thief of Bread* by Lindsay Eagar**
 - Fantasy; Middle Ages; adventure; female protagonist & male gargoyle
- ***Uprising* by Jennifer A. Nielsen**
 - Historical- WW2/Holocaust; Polish female protagonist; piano
- ***Where the Black Flowers Bloom* by Ronald L. Smith**
 - Fantasy; adventure; African culture; female protagonist
- ***Heroes* by Alan Gratz**
 - Historical- WW2/Pearl Harbor; adventure; 2 male protagonist friends

Step Two: Annotate passages, words, or quotations that are important or interesting in the book.

Q: How?

A: As you read, mark (either directly in the book or on a sticky note) passages, words, quotations, etc. that stand out to you. These may be parts of the book you connect to in some way, figurative language, powerful descriptions, etc.

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Step Three: Keep a journal about your journey through the book!

Q: How?

A: Looking at the table below (possibly the next page), Choose FIVE connecting squares for consideration and response. Your line of 5 may be either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. Please respond to each square's topic through written journal entries (6-8 sentence paragraph per square). When you are finished with the assignment, you should have five or more journal entries (equal to 5 paragraphs).

Choice Board				
Personal reflection	Literary device	Power word reflection	Literary device	Figurative language
Figurative language	Theme(s)	Literary device	Power word reflection	Personal reflection
Power word reflection	Figurative language	Personal reflection	Theme(s)	Literary device
Personal reflection	Power word reflection	Literary device	Figurative language	Theme(s)
Literary device	Personal reflection	Theme(s)	Personal reflection	Power word reflection

***Note: Scroll to the end of this document for a description of each topic.**

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Helpful links:

Q: How do I choose a book that I will like?

A: Read about each book using the following links: <https://www.goodreads.com/> OR <https://www.arbookfind.com/>.

Q: Can a family read the book together?

A: Absolutely! Find tips for a family book club on www.weareteachers.com, [“How to Start a Family Book Club \(Plus 11 Great Reads to Try\)”](#) by Staake.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the book or journal assignment; however, please note that we only check our inboxes periodically over the summer.

Happy reading, students! We can't wait to hear which book(s) you choose to befriend and how your reading journey goes!

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Mrs. McClurg & Miss Gibson
7th & 8th Grade English Teachers
Tallulah Falls Middle School

Personal reflection: This represents a part of the novel you connect to personally or could compare to another book you have read. Explain the connection.

Power word reflection: This can be a strong vocabulary word, a quotation, or a descriptive passage. Explain why you chose/noticed the word, quotation, or passage.

Theme(s): This represents a passage or part of the novel that reveals the author's underlying message in the book. How does this passage reveal what the author wants to tell us about life?

Figurative language: Figurative language includes similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia, etc. What is the example of figurative language you found? What is its symbolic meaning? How does it help you better understand the story?

Literary devices: Examples include flashback, foreshadowing, irony, symbolism, etc. How does the literary device you chose increase your excitement or enjoyment of the novel?