

Grace Middle School – 7th Grade Summer Reading 2023

“Reading is a means of thinking with another person’s mind; it forces you to stretch your own.”
– Charles Scribner, Jr.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss

The ultimate goal of summer reading is to help you maintain or grow your reading and writing skills over the summer. Reading can be relaxing, enjoyable, and even an exciting way to pass the time over the long summer months. It’s important to enjoy a variety of healthy activities over the break; please make sure reading for fun is one of them!

This summer, students will choose to read two (2) books of their choice. These books should be new to the reader. Please do not read a book you have already read for the summer reading assignment, though rereading books is a fun practice. These books should be at or around middle school reading levels and appropriate for discussion in class and reflection around the dinner table.

Requirements:

- Complete the two (2) tasks below: **Written connections supported by text evidence**, and **write a letter to the author of one of the books you chose**.
- All reading must be at or above grade level.
- Read at least thirty minutes at a time.

Choose two books from one of the three lists below:

- Lone Star Reading List 2023: <https://txla.org/news/2023-lone-star-reading-list-announced/>
- Goodreads Best Middle Grade Novels of 2023: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/139529.Middle_Grade_Novels_of_2023
- Goodreads Best Middle School Classics List: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/19369.Middle_School_Classics

Task 1

Directions: As you read, look for the sentence or section that jumps out at you. Write a brief note so you can remember what you were thinking. (If nothing jumps out at you by the time you have finished reading, then go back and FIND something to respond to.)




These connections can come all from one novel or you can spread out your connections between both novels.

To earn an “A” you must:

- 14 connections are required; 3 of each type; plus 5 of your choice.
- Write at least 5-7 sentences to explain each connection.
- Give the page number, paragraph, or line number of the part you are responding to.
- Mention which type of connection (Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, or Text-to-World) you are using (see examples below).
- Include an illustration (picture) to show what is happening in the book and why it’s important to you.

A blank templet is below, after the example, that you can copy and paste into a new document to use for this assignment.

Example for the Task 1 assignment:

The Book: Record the quote (or paraphrase) from the book that grabbed you.	The Brain: Explain your connection using one of the provided sentence starters.	The Imagination: Use an illustration and/or a caption to show what is happening and why it matters. You can draw your illustrations or find images electronically.
<p>Type of Connection: _____</p> <p>Quote:</p> <p>Pg # _____, Chapter _____</p>	<p>This part reminds me of....</p> <p>I felt like...(character) when I....</p> <p>If that happened to me I would....</p> <p>This book reminds me of...(another text) because....</p> <p>I can relate to...(part of text) because one time....</p> <p>Something similar happened to me when....</p>	<p>Things to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The setting ● The characters ● Dialogue between the characters ● Symbols to show what is happening in the plot ● Symbols to show what is important about the characters ● Figurative language like metaphors, similes, or personification
<p>Type of Connection: Text-to-Self</p> <p>Quote/Paraphrase: "They always told us that one day we would move into a house, a real house that would be ours for always so we wouldn't have to move each year."</p> <p>Pg #12, Chapter 3</p>	<p>I can relate to this idea of moving because when I was little, we moved three times in 1 year! Just when I would get used to a house or a neighborhood or a group of friends, we would have to pack up again and move. I know that this was hard, and I think the narrator is not happy about this.</p>	 <p>This reminds me of moving and feeling like you are leaving everything you know and love behind.</p>
<p>Type of Connection: Text-to-Text</p> <p>Quote/Paraphrase: This section is about Alicia who wants to study and go to school, but her father tells her that girls are supposed to cook and clean, not go to college.</p> <p>Pg #22, Chapter 4</p>	<p>This reminds me of the article we read about Malala, the girl who was shot by the Taliban for trying to go to school. I know that there are places in the world where girls are not allowed to go to school. This must be frustrating.</p>	
<p>Type of Connection: Text-to-Society</p> <p>Quote/Paraphrase: "No, this isn't my house I say and shake my head as if shaking could undo the year I've lived here. I don't belong. I don't ever want to come from here."</p> <p>Pg #15, Chapter 4</p>	<p>In this part of the book, Esperanza is feeling disappointed about where she is living. It doesn't feel like home and she is ashamed of it. It reminds me of the refugees that I hear about in the news: they have been forced to leave their homes, and the places they must live in must feel uncomfortable, strange, and ugly to them.</p>	

Rubric:

	100-90	89-80	79-70	69 and below
Completeness	25 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 or more entries 	20 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 - 13 entries 	15 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-9 entries 	10 points or less <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-6 entries
Variety of Connections	25 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Text-to-Self • 3 Text-to-Text • 3 Text-to-World • 5 more of your choice 	20 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >3 Text-to-Self • > 3 Text-to-Text • > 3 Text-to-World • 4 of your choice 	17 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • > 2 Text-to-Self • > 2 Text-to-Text • > 2 Text-to-World • 1 more of your choice 	15 points or less <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections are mostly Text-to-Self; • Little to no attempt has been made to make connections to other texts or the world.
Thoughtful, well explained connections	25 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All entries are 5-7 sentences. • Connections show an effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. • The connections respond to various topics covered in the novel. 	20 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most entries are 3-5 sentences. • Connections show some effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. • The connections respond to most topic 	17 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some entries are 3-5 sentences, but most are shorter. • Connections little effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. • The connections respond to few topics 	15 points or less <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most entries are 1-2 sentences. • Connections show no effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. • The connections do not respond to the various topics covered in the novel.
Illustrations and Captions	25 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrations reflect what is happening in the story, and/or the tone/mood evoked by the author's choice of words. • The illustrations chosen show the reader has made inferences and connections that go beyond a surface-level understanding of the text. 	20 Points <p>Illustrations reflect what is happening in the story, and/or the tone/mood evoked by the author's choice of words.</p>		

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Before you start reading, record the following information.

Title of my book: _____

The author: _____

Why I chose my book: _____

How I read the book: _____ (I bought it, ebook, library book, audiobook, etc.)

Number of pages in my book: _____ How many pages I need to read every day/week: _____

Project is due: Tuesday, September 5, 2023

The Book: Record the quote (or paraphrase) from the book that grabbed you.	The Brain: Explain your connection using one of the provided sentence starters.	The Imagination: Use an illustration and/or a caption to show what is happening and why it matters. You can draw your illustrations or find images electronically.
Type of Connection: _____ Quote: Page #, Chapter _____		
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Task 2

Author Letter

Write a letter to the author of one of the books you chose. While authors may not have time to respond to each letter they receive, they do enjoy letters from their readers -- especially those that discuss the details of the book on children's own terms. Your letter must be written in a letter format (see example below). Send letters in care of book publishers if you can't locate the author's address in WHO'S WHO, CURRENT BIOGRAPHY, or other reference sources. The letter must include the following:

1. Specific details about the story that you enjoyed.
2. Something you have a question about.
3. A suggestion on how you might have written a scene differently or written a different ending.

Make sure you are kind and respectful with your writing. Make sure to do a spell and grammar check prior to sending the letter. You must submit a copy of the letter to your seventh grade ELA teacher by **Tuesday, September 5, 2023.**

Sample letter format:

Your Name
Your Street Address
City, State Zip
Email address

Date

First and last name of the person you're writing to
Their street address
City, state zip

Dear Mr. or Ms. [full name of the author]:

[indent by hitting tab] Introduce yourself and the topic you are writing about to the reader. Remember that the first rule of writing is to know your audience. Since you are writing to the author of a book you just read, be sure to start out being complimentary. You do not want to belittle or put down the author in any way. State what you enjoyed about their book, ask questions, and end by give a suggestion of what you might have changed.

Sincerely,

Your name