



7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment (For Incoming 7th Graders)

Hi students! Welcome to seventh grade! To be prepared for the upcoming school year, it is mandatory that every seventh grader read two books of their choice over the summer. If you need assistance finding a good book to read, please refer to the following three lists below: **Goodreads Middle Grade Classics**, **Goodreads Best Middle School Novels**, and the **2024 Lone Star List Annotated**. These lists are to provide you book ideas. You do not have to choose books from these lists, and can read any book of your choice. The only stipulations are that the books must be at a middle school reading level and cannot be books you have previously read.

[Goodreads Middle Grade Classics](#)
 [Goodreads Best Middle School Novels](#)
 [2024 Lone Star List](#)

Assignment for Book 1 – Literary Elements Chart:

For this assignment you will complete the literary elements chart below. You may copy and paste the chart into a separate document or recreate it on your own. Make sure if you recreate it, you include each literary element listed.

The first column is the type of element I want you to focus on, the second column is your answer that corresponds to that element, and the third column is the evidence and explanation (reasoning) that supports your answer. You can and should, if possible, have more than one piece of evidence that supports your answer. When citing your text evidence, copy the words word-for-word from the book you read and place quotation marks around the text. Then cite the page number you found the text in the book. Please see the example below.

Literary Element	Answer	Text Evidence and explanation
Characterization of a main character - protagonist	<p>Jonas is one of the main characters in the novel "The Giver." In the novel he shows the character traits of being respectful and brave.</p> <p style="color: red;">You can and should list as many character traits as you can prove. You must have two or more. I'm only showing two here to save space on this page.</p>	<p>Examples from the text that Jonas is respectful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 75: "Sir, I apologize for my lack of understanding..." • Page 77: "I apologize for interrupting." • Page 105: "Yes, sir. They told me that at the Ceremony. The very highest honor." <p>In all of these examples, Jonas is speaking to the Giver in a very respectful way. He apologizes for interrupting the Giver when he wasn't finished speaking. He also apologizes for misunderstanding the Giver. Additionally, he always refers to the Giver as "Sir," which is a polite and respectful way of addressing someone older than him.</p> <p>Examples from the text that Jonas is brave are:</p> <p>Page 85: The Giver said, "Jonas, it will be painful." Jonas replied, "I'm brave. I really am." Then Jonas sat up a little straighter.</p> <p>The above text is an example of Jonas showing bravery when it wasn't easy to do so. This is at the beginning of his training when he was heading into something completely unknown. The unknown can be scary for anyone and when the Giver told Jonas directly that he would feel pain, Jonas did not waiver and confronted this uncomfortable, unknown situation with strength.</p>

Copy the chart below or recreate it in your own document. Please type your responses and upload your chart into Google Classroom when the assignment opens in August.

Literary Element	Answer	Text Evidence and explanation
Characterization of main character - protagonist		
Characterization of sub character		
Characterization of the antagonist		
One theme in the novel (remember that theme is a lesson about life that should be written as a sentence and not one word). For example, a theme from the novel <i>The Giver</i> would be "A society cannot enjoy life's pleasures without enduring the pain."		
Main conflict		
Mood of a particular scene in the novel		
Examples of Imagery used in the novel		

Rubric for Literary Chart:

Criteria	Student Demonstrates	Total Possible Points
Understanding of Literary Elements	Student provides accurate information about the literary element in their answer	20
Text Evidence that supports answer	Student provides multiple pieces of relevant text to support their answer	20
Explanation of literary elements	Student offers insightful and detailed explanations that connect the text provided to their answer.	20
Organization and Clarity	Student's ideas are well-organized, clear, and easy to follow.	20
Language and Mechanics	Uses precise language, good grammar by using quotation marks around quoted text, periods at the end of sentences, and proper capitalization and spelling.	20

Assignment for Book 2 – Letter to the author:

Write a letter to the author of one of the books you chose. You can find their address in Google. Most authors have a fan page with a contact address for their readers. I am going to provide a sample letter format below that you can follow. 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 (like the one below). Send letters in care of book publishers if you can't locate the author's address. 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. Be sure to do a spell and grammar check prior to sending the letter. You must submit a copy of your letter in Google Classroom or in person to your seventh grade ELA teacher by **Tuesday, September 3, 2024.**

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
Street Address
City, State Zip Code

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 giving a suggestion of what you might have changed or wish was different. If you can't think of something you would change or wish was different, you can simply compliment a specific part of the book you enjoyed.

Sincerely,

Your name

Rubric for letter to an author:

Positive Feedback	Student provides detailed and thoughtful praise for the author's work, demonstrating a deep understanding of the text.	25
Question	Student asks a thoughtful and relevant question that shows engagement with the text and curiosity about the story, author's writing process, or themes of the story.	25
Suggestion	Student offers a creative or constructive suggestion for the author on something they wish they would have seen happen in the story or maybe a different ending. If no suggestion can be thought of, the student can choose a particular part of the story they enjoyed and explain what they liked and why.	25
Organization and Clarity	Letter is organized with clear paragraphs, and ideas flow logically from one to the next. Writing is clear, concise, and free of spelling errors.	25