

Middle School Summer Reading and Writing

Entering 6th Grade

READING SELECTIONS:

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Fablehaven* by Brandon Mull

Both books are part of a series. If a student has read the first book, please have them read the next in the series. If they have completed the series, please contact me at kmulzet@montgomeryschool.org for an alternative book.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Step 1: Please choose one character from one of your summer books, and pretend that you are a journalist who will interview that character. Imagine that you are interviewing the character for a talk show, or the news. You do not have to choose the main character in the book, it might be more fun to learn about a minor character.

Step 2: Using the book as background, write four good questions for the character that cannot be answered by a “yes” or “no” answer. Imagine things that you would want to know about each character if he or she was a real person. Make sure that your questions are interesting, and that they will also reveal more information about the character when they are answered.

Step 3: *Answer* all of your questions as you imagine each character would. You are asking your chosen character four questions that are specific to the book in which they appear. You can make up answers that do not connect directly with the plot of the book you’ve read, but might have been written in the book if the writer had included this information. Please feel free to use your imagination with this assignment! Your answers (four total) must be at least three sentences long, but may be much longer.

This assignment may be handwritten, or shared with me on a Google doc (name it your first initial and last name and summer reading 2017 - for example “kmulzet Summer Reading 2017”. Share to: kmulzet@montgomeryschool.org.

The assignment is due on the first day of school.

Entering 7th Grade

READING SELECTIONS:

Students are required to read *both* books.

- ***Wringer*** by Jerry Spinelli
- ***The Watsons Go to Birmingham*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Pick one character from each of the novels listed above. Write a short essay describing the values and beliefs of the characters you chose, and explain how those values and beliefs affect the characters' actions in both positive and negative ways.

Be sure to use specific examples from the book to support your opinion. This essay should be 2-4 paragraphs in length. Each paragraph should be at least 8 sentences.

This assignment should be shared with me (abrown@montgomeryschool.org) via Google Docs. Please title the document with your first and last name and summer reading 2017. Example: ***Jack Smith Summer Reading 2017***. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

Entering 8th Grade

READING SELECTIONS:

Choose any **TWO** of the Following:

- ***The Odyssey*** (I recommend that students read the **graphic novel by Gareth Hinds**, but if they want a challenge, they are welcome to attempt the modern translation by Richmond Lattimore)
- ***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien
- ***The Golden Compass*** by Philip Pullman
- ***Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard*** by Rick Riordan

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Using complete sentences, answer the following questions for both of the books you read.

1. **Who is the main character?**
2. **What is his or her main task or quest?**
3. **What challenges, friends, and enemies does he or she meet along the way?**
4. **Does the character have a mentor? This would be someone with much experience whom the character admires and who helps the character along the way.**
5. **How does the character's mentor help him or her to achieve the task?**
6. **Is there a moment where you, the reader, fear for the character's life? When is that moment?**
7. **Does the main character succeed in his or her task / quest? How?**

8. What important lesson does the character learn about the world or about himself or herself along the way?
9. In what ways does the character change from the beginning to the end of the story?

This assignment should be shared with me (abrown@montgomeryschool.org) via Google Docs. Please title the document with your first and last name and summer reading 2017. Example: ***Jack Smith Summer Reading 2017***. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

******A THIRD REQUIRED READING BOOK FOR 8TH GRADE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST. The written component for this book will be addressed in school in September.***