

## Eighth Grade Summer Reading

Welcome to 8th grade! Over the summer, you are required to read at least two novels. One book may be a free choice and the other one **must be a selection** from the one of the authors listed below. Be prepared to submit the following assignments to your language arts teacher during the first week back to school in August. Have a fabulous summer and read, read, read!

1. You will submit a 3 X 5 (blank) index card that contains the following information using the book you selected as your free choice:  
Side 1- Title, author, genre, setting, time period  
Side 2- A paragraph explaining three reasons you would/would not recommend the novel. Include a symbol representing the overall theme (friendship, hardship, loyalty)  
Please make sure that your index card is legible!
  
2. For the mandatory book choice, you must design an advertisement board (using standard white poster board) that will persuade the audience to read your book. Your advertisement board should be similar to what you would see along side of a wall in the movie theatres. It must be neat, creative and include the following:  
Title and author of the book  
List of characters  
Time period  
Setting  
Illustration of the book (free drawn or copied)  
Critic claim-a catch phrase about the book that makes it so spectacular

You will be expected to give an oral presentation and share your board during the first week of school.

Select a novel written by one of the following authors below. Some book titles have been included, however, **you may choose one that is not listed as long as it is by one of the authors listed!** Your selection will fulfill the project requirement for number 2 (above). Directions for the writing assignment are on the backside.

Choose any novel written by:

**H.G. Wells**

*The War of the Worlds*

*The Time Machine*

*The Invisible Man*

**Madeleine L'Engle**

*A Wrinkle in Time*

*A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

*Dragons in the Water*

*A Wind in the Door*

Choose one of the writing activities and be prepared to submit this to your language arts teacher during the first week of school. You may type the assignment and earn up to 4 extra credit points. Please use a 12 point font that is double spaced.

1. Review the book. Write a five-paragraph essay expressing your opinions about it; cite examples and quotes from the book to support why you think it is an interesting book or not.
2. Write a letter to the author. Explain in five paragraphs why the book was excellent or terrible. Cite specific details from the book to support your opinion. The letter should be written in friendly letter format and contain an introduction, three paragraphs for the body, and a conclusion.
3. Write a letter to the character. Explain in five paragraphs what you liked/disliked about his character. Use specific details from the novel to support your opinion and cite them.

Each writing assignment is required to have the following:

- An introduction including a thesis statement which states what your entire paper will discuss and the position you are taking (example-The book is phenomenal and one that many science fiction readers will enjoy).
- 3 paragraphs supporting the introduction using specific details to support your opinion.
- A conclusion that “wraps up” your paper and your position.

Rubric attached. Please review the rubric so that you understand what is expected.

	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards	
CATEGORY					Score

Thesis Statement in Introduction	The thesis statement states what the main idea is and what the paper will discuss	The thesis statement states the main idea but there is not much of an introduction	The thesis statement is difficult to understand	Student did not include a thesis statement, therefore paper was difficult to understand	
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations support his/her opinion	Student had a difficult time providing evidence to support his/her opinion throughout the body of the three paragraphs	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.	
Organization	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting and difficult to follow	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized	
Sentence Structure	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure	Most sentences are well-constructed and there is some varied sentence structure in the essay	Most sentences are well constructed, but there is no variation in structure	Most sentences are not well-constructed or varied	
Grammar & Spelling	Student makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	Student makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	Student makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	Student makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	
Letter Format (If applicable)	Student used correct format in writing a friendly letter. All components included such as the date, greeting, closing	Most components were correct in writing a friendly letter	Student had difficulties demonstrating understanding of friendly letter format	Student did not use friendly letter format	
Extra Credit					

Category	4-Above Standards	3-Meets Standards	2-Approaches Standards	1 Below Standards	Score
Neatness	It is evident that the student took time to create board and put forth 100% effort	The board is neat and student put forth effort	Student put forth some effort	Student did not put forth effort	
Grammar & Spelling	The board is free of spelling and grammar errors	The board has 1-2 grammar and spelling errors that are distracting	The board has 3-4 spelling or grammar errors and are distracting	The board has more than 4 errors in grammar and spelling	
Illustration or picture	The board has a neat, creative illustration or picture that represents the book	The board has a picture or illustration representing the book	The board has a picture or illustration representing the book but there is not much creativity to it	Student did not include a picture or illustration for the board	
Catch Phrase	Student included a catch phrase that is unique and persuasive	Student included a catch phrase that is persuasive	Student tried to include a catch phrase but it was not very persuasive	Student did not include a catch phrase	
Persuasion and Design for Title, List of Characters, Time Period, and Setting	The board is eye catching and includes creativity in creating the design for the title, character's names, time period and setting	The board is eye catching and includes creativity in the design for at least three areas	The board is eye catching and creative in the design for two of the areas	The board is not very eye catching and lacking creativity in design for more than three areas	