

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment

Read and take nightly notes on James Ramsey Ullman's *Banner in the Sky*.

When taking nightly notes, the students should consider the author's use of the setting, methods of character development, stages of plot development, and any potential themes.

Directions: When taking nightly notes, the students should follow these guidelines to prepare in the best possible manner for both the tests and the final written reports:

Date:

Pages or Chapter Read:

Setting: You should identify the setting briefly and, at times, speculate on the author's purpose for the setting.

Characters: You should list the major characters with short phrases to help you remember your impression of the characters. These phrases may change for some characters as the story develops. **Do not just list the characters!!!**

Plot: You should list short phrases which help you to recall the major incidents in the author's development of the plot. Try to avoid writing notes in long paragraphs!!! For the purpose of writing the report, you should be able to fill in the extra details from reading your short "key" phrases.

Theme: At first you will only be guessing at possible "life observations" the author may be making. Your speculations in this area will be more refined as you continue to read the book.