

## Eighth Grade Literature Summer Reading

Mrs. Costanzo 703-680-4164

### **Supply List**

#### **Literature –**

- Marble Composition Book
- Four Subject dividers (to be used with last year's binder)
- If you are a new student, you need a three-ring literature binder

#### **English –** Yellow Pocket folder to keep all returned worksheets and notes

Dear Parents.

Please do not edit, correct, or change your child's summer work before it is turned in to me. I believe that it is important for your child's growth and helps him or her take responsibility for the work. Thank you for your cooperation.

Karen Costanzo

This summer project is due on the first day of school. A homework warning will be issued for any project not turned in on the first day of school and ten points will be deducted for each day it is late. After the third day, the project will not be accepted and a zero will be recorded for the grade. The summer reading counts as a test and a homework grade. Projects may be typed or on loose leaf.

#### 1. Short Story

Read the following short stories by Edgar Allen Poe:

- a. "The Fall of the House of Usher"
- b. "The Masque of the Red Death"
- c. "The Cask of Amontillado"

For each story, answer the following in essay form. Who is the main character? What conflict or dilemma must the main character face? How is his conflict resolved? What is Poe saying about people and life through the story? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? **This should not be a plot summary.** You must answer the questions in your essay. These stories can be found in any Poe anthology.

#### 2. Poetry

Read the attached six poems by Langston Hughes. Write a paragraph on each of the poems you read explaining what you think the message of the poem is. What makes the poem special? How can the message of the poem apply to your own life? You can't just tell me that it doesn't apply!

Poems by Langston Hughes

1. *The Dream Keeper*

Bring me all of your dreams,  
You dreamers,  
Bring me all of your heart melodies  
That I may wrap them  
In a blue cloud-cloth  
Away from the too-rough fingers  
Of the world.

2. *Beggar Boy*

What is there within this beggar lad  
That I can neither hear nor feel nor see,  
That I can neither know nor understand  
And still it calls to me?

Is not he but a shadow in the sun –  
A bit of clay, brown, ugly, given life?  
And yet he plays upon his flute a wild free tune  
As if Fate had not bled him with her knife?

3. *In Time of Silver Rain*

In time of silver rain  
The earth  
Puts forth new life again  
Green grasses grow  
And flowers lift their heads,  
And over all the plain  
The wonder spreads  
    Of life,  
    Of life,  
    Of life!

In time of silver rain  
The butterflies  
Lift silken wings  
To catch a rainbow cry,  
And trees put forth  
New leaves to sing  
In joy beneath the sky  
As down the roadway  
Passing boys and girls  
Go singing, too,  
In time of silver rain  
    When spring  
    And new life  
    Are new.

4. *Dreams*

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.  
Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow

5. *As I Grew Older*

It was a long time ago  
I have almost forgotten my dream.  
But it was there then,  
In front of me,  
Bright like a sun –  
My dream  
And then the wall rose,  
Rose slowly,  
Slowly,  
Between me and my dream.  
Rose slowly, slowly,  
Dimming,  
Hiding,  
The light of my dream.  
Rose until it touched the sky –  
The wall.

Shadow.  
I am black.  
I lie down in the shadow.  
No longer the light of my dream before me,  
Above me.  
Only the thick wall.  
Only the shadow.

My hands!  
My dark hands!  
Break through the wall!  
Find my dream!  
Help me to shatter this darkness,  
To smash this night,  
To break this shadow  
Into a thousand lights of sun,  
Into a thousand whirling dreams  
Of sun!

6. *Youth*

We have tomorrow  
Bright before us  
Like a flame.  
Yesterday  
A night-gone thing,  
A sun-down name.  
And dawn-today  
Broad arch above the road we came.  
We march!