

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Students are required to read two books (see below) and complete the corresponding activities.

BOOK #1:

***Rebound* – Kwame Alexander**

BOOK #2 – Choose one of the following (see attached page for book summaries):

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* - William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer**

***Hatchet* – Gary Paulsen**

***Out of My Mind* – Sharon Draper**

***A Long Walk to Water* – Linda Sue Park**

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* – Christopher Paul Curtis**

***Harry Potter* (any book in the series) – J.K. Rowling**

Project Assignment:

1. Create a cover page. Include:
 - Your first and last name
 - The titles and authors of the books you read (*Rebound* – Kwame Alexander and book of choice from list above.)
 - Two symbolic illustrations – One for each book (hand-drawn or found on the internet) - Choose a picture that represents a character, theme, setting, etc. from the book. Be prepared to explain.
2. On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions. Answers may be typed or neatly handwritten.
 - *Rebound:*
 - What is journaling and what role does it play in *Rebound*? Have you ever journaled before? How did it help you with your feelings? If you have not journaled before, how could it help you with your feelings?

- How does Chuck's choice in who he hangs out with affect him? Have you ever gotten in trouble because of a friend? How did it make you feel? If you have not gotten in trouble because of a friend, how do you think it would make you feel?
- How do sports help Chuck cope with everything going on in his life? Does exercise help you think and deal better with stress?
- Book of Choice:
 - Choose a character from your book of choice. Describe the character's personality, physical traits, etc. How are you similar or different than that character?
 - Describe the climax, the point of highest suspense, from your book of choice.
- Connecting Text to Text:
 - *Rebound* is written in poetry form. Your book of choice is written in prose form. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the two forms.
 - All the books above share the same theme of resilience and perseverance. Fold a sheet of computer paper in half (see picture below). On each half, illustrate a drawing showing how a character in each book demonstrated resiliency and/or perseverance. (The picture for *Rebound* goes on one half and the picture for your book of choice goes on the other half.) Write a summary for each picture explaining what you drew. Summaries should be typed or neatly handwritten.

How to fold:



All pages should be stapled together.

This assignment is due on the first day of school and will be graded per rubric below.

No graded test will be given on this story.

Book Summaries:

You must read:

Rebound: A novel in verse features twelve-year-old Chuck Bell who may never REBOUND. After losing his dad, he's a ship without an anchor, drifting through life angry, sad, and lost. Then his mom ships him off to live with his grandparents for the summer, where he's forced to listen to jazz, work, and play basketball -- a game he sucks at -- with his cousin Roxie. Just when Chuck is certain life will never be good again, he learns that it's all about taking your shot when you can.

You must choose one of the following:

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: A 13-year-old boy is thrown out of the school he loves when his family can no longer afford the fees. He sneaks into the library and learns how to build a windmill to save his village from a famine.

Hatchet: It tells the story of 13-year-old Brian Robeson and his successful attempt to survive alone in the wilderness.

Out of My Mind: It captures the thoughts of 10-year-old Melody, incapable of controlling her body or speaking her mind because of cerebral palsy. Told in first person by the remarkably intelligent girl, the story is a realistic and compassionate window into the life of one considered "disabled" by the world around her.

A Long Walk to Water: The book alternates between two storylines: one beginning in 1985 and revolving around Salva Dut, an eleven-year-old boy living in the South Sudanese village of Loun-Ariik; the other beginning in 2008 and revolving around a young South Sudanese girl named Nya.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham: It tells the story of a loving African-American family living in the town of Flint, Michigan, in 1963. When the oldest son (Byron) begins to get into a bit of trouble, the parents decide he should spend the summer and possibly the next school year with Grandma Sands in Birmingham, Alabama.

Harry Potter (any book in the series): J.K. Rowling's popular children's books are about Harry Potter, a boy who learns on his eleventh birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards and possesses unique magical powers of his own. He is summoned from his life as an unwanted child to become a student at Hogwarts, an English boarding school for wizards. There, he meets several friends who become his closest allies and help him discover the truth about his parents' mysterious deaths.

Assignment Rubric: Total – 60 Points

Cover Page ____/5

Rebound - Questions ____/10

Book of Choice – Questions ____/10

Connecting Text-to-Text ____/25

Broken down as follows:

poetry vs. prose ____/5

Rebound picture ____/5

Rebound explanation ____/5

book of choice picture ____/5

book of choice explanation ____/5

Neatness/Creativity ____/5

Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation ____/5

5 points = 0-2 errors

4 points = 3-5 errors

3 points = 6-8 errors

2 points = 9 or more errors