

7-8th Grade Summer Projects

Due: Thurs., Aug. 12, 2021

Objectives: Read for comprehension and improve fluency.

- * identify specific terms and relate them to a novel
- * improve reading level capabilities
- * develop critical thinking and synthesis skills
- * make personal connections through creative interpretation of literature

Format: Both the Book Report is expected to be written in MLA format

- MJM in the header of the paper
- First three lines are justified on the left as follows:
 - Student Name
 - Literature
 - Date in MLA format: Day Month Year (no commas)
- Double spaced (no extra space between paragraphs)
- Font: Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11
- Everything must be written In Clear Complete Sentences (ICCS)
- Please remember to check your: Capitalization, Usage (of homophones), Punctuation, and Spelling (CUPS)

You will read two books over the summer and complete **one book report** and **one project**. Follow the book report guidelines under the mandated reading list for your grade level. Both of the mandatory books will be used to discuss literary topics as well as add back knowledge for books that will be read during the school year. Choose a second book from the optional reading list and complete one project.

7th Grade Mandated Reading: *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
(There are several versions of this book, please find one that you think suits your student's reading level.)

7th Grade Pick-A-Project Reading Choices: *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by O'Dell
Call of the Wild by Jack London
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolken
St. Elizabeth's Three Crowns by Thompson
Saint Thomas Aquinas by Windeatt

8th Grade Mandated Reading: *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Canon Doyle
(There are several versions of this book, please find one that you think suits your student's reading level.)

8th Grade Pick-A-Project Reading Choices: *The Fellowship of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Pearl by John Steinback
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
Isaac Jogues: With Burning Heart by Orfeo
Mother Cabrini: Missionary to the World by Keyes

Mandatory Reading Book Report Guidelines

- Students will answer five questions specific to the mandatory reading for their grade level.
- Minimum length of responses for each question:
 - 7th grade: 75 words
 - 8th grade: 100 words
- Student work should be well organized and easy to read; each question should be clearly marked and distinguished. (Taking a “bite out of the question will help.)
- Students are expected to use their own ideas and to demonstrate their understanding of the books by completing this assignment. Therefore, students should NOT use any websites, presentations, or any other sources of information about the books to avoid plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to:
 - Cutting and pasting information from ANY source
 - Copying information or answers from ANY source other than the book itself
 - Paraphrasing the ideas of or altering the words of others.
- Students are encouraged to use quotes from the book to support their idea.

Mandatory Questions for Tom Sawyer

1. Explain/describe the two main characters: Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Quote evidence from the book, at least once per character. How are they similar? How are they different?
2. Examine Tom’s actions: is Tom a good person? Support your answer.
3. Describe the setting (both time and place) of the book.
4. Give an example of a specific turning point in the book.
5. Various lessons can be learned from this book. Choose one, explain how it is presented in the book, and why it is important today. Below are a few *suggestions*; however, there are other lessons in the book.
 - a. Telling the truth is freeing
 - b. Think before you act
 - c. Adversity makes you stronger

Mandatory Questions for The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

1. Explain/describe the two main characters: Holmes and Dr. Watson. Quote evidence from the book, at least once per character.
2. Holmes uses deductive reasoning to arrive at his conclusions. First: what is deductive reasoning, and second how might we use it today?
3. Choose one of the adventures and summarize it. Make sure to include the setting, the problem, the clues, and Holmes’s deductions.
4. Holmes tells Dr. Watson, “ You see, but you do not observe.” Explain the quote and how it still relevant (both personally and within the world).
5. There are many various lessons that we can learn from Holmes, Watson, and their adventures. Choose one and explain how it unfolds in the book as well as why it is something we should learn and use today. Below are a few *suggestions*; however, there are other lessons in the book.
 - a. Don’t judge people on first impressions
 - b. There is more than one way to solve a problem
 - c. Early failures should not prevent us from trying again

Pick-A-Project from Reading Choices Lists

Choose only ONE of the following options to complete for your second book:

1. Create a comic book based on one part of your novel. Create and illustrate at least three “scenes.” Use dialogue bubbles and be sure to write captions that summarize what the characters are doing (the action). Charcoal or colored pencils are fine; use standard size (8½ x 11) white paper.
2. Complete a painting, drawing, or sculpture (any medium) that illustrates a scene from your novel. Explain why you chose the scene and what the characters/setting is all about (about half a hand-written page). You have creative license when determining the size and complexity of your art piece.
3. Create a scrapbook that represents the main character in your book. When you attach each picture or token, be sure to include a brief description of what it is and how it relates to your character—a minimum of six pages (at least 8x5 sized paper).
4. Keep a reading diary or journal. You must have a minimum of ten hand-written entries, dated, paragraph form, approximately fifteen sentences each. Your entries need to express what’s happened in the chapters you’ve read for that entry; you must make at least one prediction about what is going to happen, and one comment about a character’s personality as revealed through their dialogue or deeds.
5. Act out a dance or YouTube®-style skit dramatizing one scene in your novel. The characters must be easily identifiable; dialogue or mime must reveal **appropriate action** taking place in the selected scene; no inappropriate behavior allowed. Save the file in a playable format, online storage.
6. Create a Slide Presentation or Prezi about the main parts of your book (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, denouncement/ resolution). There must be a minimum of ten slides, each containing information and pictures. One slide must include a sound bite. One slide must contain the name of your book, your name, and the picture. The project must be saved to flash drive and given to the teacher on completion.
7. Book Report Trailer: create a 1-3 min “movie” trailer. Record the trailer and bring it in to present to the class. The speaker must speak clearly throughout, show emotion, and speak at a good pace. Any music or images must relate to the book and trailer. Transitions are smooth, all words are spelled correctly, and the font is easy to read. Remember, all dialogue, costumes, and actions must be appropriate.