

8TH GRADE ENGLISH, LANGUAGE A, SUMMER READING LIST

Virgin Islands Montessori School and International Academy

Welcome to the 7th grade! Below is a list of books for you to read this summer in preparation for the 2009-2010 school year. Please purchase these books on this list ASAP. We will begin the year with a discussion and literary analysis of them. These novels are also related to your Eight Grade Humanities class, and they will be referred to in both classes.

READING ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS: For each book please complete all four assignments. (I, II, III & IV). Remember, leisure reading is a different activity than reading to study literature. To set yourself up for success, I recommend you gather your novel, a pen, some paper, this assignment sheet and a cold drink and find a quiet table and chair. (Lounging is often a great invitation to nap, but not a great position in which to study.) Take breaks when you need to, and make sure you complete the work as you are reading. It's **very difficult** to do a lot of these activities, after you have read the entire novel.

- I. Because the books are yours, you are encouraged to write in them. Here are some things you may want to note as you read: (Please do not feel limited by these suggestions.)
 - A. Circle or highlight words you don't know.
 - B. Identify literary aspects of the novel. For example, write setting on the pages that both clearly describe the location, time, historical events, technology used etc.
 - C. Put a star next to lines or paragraphs that you particularly enjoy. Some of you may note the language use of the writer or a technique s/he uses to create tension.
 - D. Write character development next to entries that give you a clear idea of the type of person a character is whether it is something s/he does, says, thinks, or another character says about him or her.
 - E. Respond in the margins with personal reactions.
 1. Perhaps you have experienced something similar to something the character is experiencing, you could write, "That's exactly like"
 2. You may find a particular part boring or exciting. Yes, it's ok to write "boring" in the margin.
 3. Maybe you know something about the subject or time and comment on what you know.
 4. Some passages may simply confuse you; you can put a "?" near the passage.
 5. You might even have an emotional reaction to the characters or plot and write something like, "How could s/he do that?"
- II. Make a list of the main events that happen in each chapter. Most students wait until they have finished a chapter and then write the list. These lists need not be too detailed. Some chapters may be longer or have more happen in them than others. A typical list may start like this:

Chapter 7:

 1. Mary and her family meet another family called the Wyatts on the Oregon Trail.
 2. Mary's dad becomes ill.
 3. The oldest Wyatt son goes out to hunt for meat and does not return by sundown.

III. Make a list of the characters and some adjectives you would use to describe each one.

IV. When you have finished reading the novel, write a reflection journal (1 page in length) stating:

A. Your opinion of the novel. Include specific aspects you liked and/or didn't like.

B. Discuss the things you learned from reading this novel.

C. Explain in what ways you are similar to and different from the main character.

THE NOVELS

NAME OF BOOK	AUTHOR	READING LEVEL/ PAGES	SUMMARY
End of a Dark Road	Crystal Thrasher 1982	RL: 7 228pp.	This book shares the life of the Robinsons, a rural farm family, as they experience both joy and sorrow during the Depression years.
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	RL: 8 304pp	During WWII, Anne a Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis, lived for years in a secret attic with her entire family, going through usual and unusual experiences of adolescence, and this is her diary.
Not Separate, Not Equal	Brenda Wilkinson 1987	RL: 8 152pp.	Malene is one of the six black students to integrate a Georgia public high school during the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-1960s. She experiences hatred and racism.

Enclosed is a suggested reading list for those of you who love to read and can't get enough.