

Summer 2022
South Plainfield Middle School
Summer Reading Assignment
Students Entering Grade 7 and 8

Why Summer Reading?

It is important that the South Plainfield Middle School students continue to read during the summer. Summer is an excellent time to discover new writers and explore new subjects, without the pressures presented during the school year. To that end, students entering **both 7th and 8th grade** should complete the assignment below.

Select Your Readings

Choose two books, one fiction and one nonfiction. Choose books that interest you and that you are able to read comfortably. Nonfiction selections might be biographical, historical, scientific or related to the social sciences. Although they may be shelved in the nonfiction section of a library, you should avoid nonfiction selections such as drawing books, cookbooks, joke books, comics, fairy tales, etc. Please use your judgment when making your selection.

Summer Reading Assignment:

After you have read both books, write a **four paragraph essay** explaining how the books are connected. You should be focusing on the thematic connection between the two and the current global connections you are able to make. Please follow the format of a proper essay: an introduction paragraph with a clearly defined thesis, two body paragraphs that discuss both books in each paragraph. You should support your ideas with at least one example from each book **IN EACH PARAGRAPH**. And finally a conclusion that restates your thesis and ties all of your ideas together. This assignment will be graded as a quiz grade for the first marking period.

Essays must be in MLA format: double spaced, 12 point font, and with proper MLA heading. An example of an MLA paper can be found on the OWL at Purdue. [OWL Sample Paper](#). Essays must have properly formatted citation and must have a properly formatted works cited page. All examples can be found in the MLA formatting and style guide on the OWL. Students should have their essays saved in their google drive to be ready for instructions on the first day of school.

For example, if you are interested in historical fiction, you might read *Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson, a novel about a 17 year old girl who survives a yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. This book could be paired with the nonfiction book *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* by Jim Murphy. A global connection here could be the Ebola outbreak, containment, and international reaction in 2016, or the Coronavirus and its containment and quarantine in 2020. However, you could also choose two seemingly unrelated books and make a thematic connection. The same historical fiction book could be paired with Warren St. John's *Outcasts United*, a nonfiction book about a soccer team made up of refugees from around the world. In your essay, you might elaborate on

how the characters in both books strove to overcome the obstacles presented to them (a major theme in both books). A global connection could be the immigration issue in this country or the Syrian refugee crisis that began after the civil war in that country.

Get reading suggestions online at the following sites:

[Goodreads: Middle School](#)

[ALA: Recommended Reads](#)

[Scholastic: Middle School Picks](#)

Here are some book pairings to get you started! Please visit the library for additional recommendations and book pairings.

SPORTS - FROM SP LIBRARY LIST

FICTION - FOOTBALL GENIUS / GREEN

NONFICTION - LEGENDS: THE BEST PLAYERS TEAMS AND GAMES IN FOOTBALL / BRYANT

GIRL POWER - FROM SP LIBRARY LIST

FICTION - UNDEAD GIRL GANG / ANDERSON

NONFICTION - HERE WE ARE: FEMINISM FOR THE REAL WORLD

SOME ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS:

GAMING

FICTION - THE EYE OF MINDS: THE MORTALITY DOCTRINE BOOK ONE - JAMES DASHNER

NONFICTION - GIRL CODE: GAMING, GOING VIRAL AND GETTING IT DONE BY ANDREA GONZALES AND SOPHIE HOUSER

HISTORY

FICTION - ALLIES - ALLEN GRATZ

NONFICTION - A THOUSAND SISTERS: THE HEROIC AIRWOMEN OF THE SOVIET UNION IN WWII - ELIZABETH WEI

NONFICTION - UNSUNG HEROES OF WWII: THE STORY OF THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS - DEANNE DURRET

ESSAY OUTLINE

| | |
|---|--|
| Books/ Thematic connection | |
| THESIS | |

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Main Idea | |
| Topic Sentence | |
| Evidence from fiction book | "[type in text evidence here] (author's last name and page number) you will put this information in parentheses after your textual evidence in your paper" |
| Text Evidence From non fiction book | "[type in text evidence here] (author's last name and page number) you will put this information in parentheses after your textual evidence in your paper" |

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Main Idea | |
| Topic Sentence | |
| Text Evidence from fiction book | "[type in text evidence here] (author's last name and page number) you will put this information in parentheses after your textual evidence in your paper" |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Text Evidence from non fiction book | “[type in text evidence here] (author’s last name and page number) you will put this information in parentheses after your textual evidence in your paper |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Conclusion

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|--|--|
| | |
| Restate thesis | |
| Final words on your two texts | |
| How the theme affects the world today. | |

WORKS CITED

You must have a works cited page with your essay. Please look on the OWL at Purdue for how to format a works cited page correctly. Hint: all entries must be in alphabetical order!!!!