

ELA Summer Reading Assignment

for

Incoming 8th Graders

Topic: Perseverance

Due: First day of school

The Summer Slide: It sounds fun, but it can make the transition from seventh to eighth grade really difficult. We can start strong in the fall if our reading habits don't slide away during the summer. The more we read, the stronger our skills are in all subject areas. You must read at least two novels this summer to complete the assignment. Don't forget that summer should still be fun! Summer reading is the opportunity to relax and enjoy literature!

Assignment: Compare and contrast the conflict(s) the protagonists face in each of your self-select novels. What is the obstacle the protagonist faces? What is the tough lesson that makes your character grow? Is it an external or internal challenge? How does your character respond? What is the underlying theme of your novel? How are the characters in each of your novels similar in these ways? How are they different? How do each of these novels relate to the topic "perseverance"? Provide textual evidence.

Your comparative analysis must be at least two pages in length, using proper heading in MLA format, double spaced, and Times New Roman font in size 12. Refer to the guiding questions above and worksheets to assist your response. You will write a five paragraph essay: introduction, similarities, differences (x2), and conclusion.

In addition to your essay, you must complete a Literary Elements form for each novel. The Literary Elements and Comparative Analysis are due the first day of school!

You are required to choose two school-appropriate, grade level novels. You may choose your novels from any genre. You may NOT re-read a novel you've previously read. I have included a list of novels appropriate for reading. Feel free to choose a novel not listed.

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Realistic Fiction:

The Final Play by Len Spacek

SO B. IT by Sarah Weeks

Waterwoman by Lenore Hart

Save me a Seat By Sarah Weeks

Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot

Counting by 7s by Holly G. Sloan

Multiple Choice by Janet Tashjian

Fantasy / Mythology / Sci-Fi

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan

Inkspell by Cornelia Funke

Fantastic Beasts by J.K Rowling

Action and Sports

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Million-Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica

Historical Fiction

Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz

Don't You Know There's a War Going On?

By Avi

The Last Cherry Blossom by Kathleen

Burkinshaw

Bigger by Calvert

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John

Boyne

Nonfiction

Anne Frank by Josephine Poole

Sunder by William H. Armstrong

Genius: A Photobiography of Albert

Einstein by Marfe Ferguson Delano

Title and Author: _____

Genre: _____ Point of View: _____

Protagonist: _____ Antagonist: _____

Conflict: _____

Theme: _____

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Summary: _____

Five words and definitions (in your own words)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Title and Author: _____

Genre: _____ Point of View: _____

Protagonist: _____ Antagonist: _____

Conflict: _____

Theme: _____

Summary: _____

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Five words and definitions (in your own words)

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

	4	3	2	1
Purpose and Supporting Details	The paper compares and contrasts items clearly. The paper points to specific examples to illustrate the comparison. The paper includes only the information relevant to the comparison.	The paper compares and contrasts items clearly, but the supporting information is general. The paper includes only the information relevant to the comparison.	The paper compares and contrasts items clearly, but the supporting information is incomplete. The paper may include information that is not relevant to the comparison.	The paper compares or contrasts, but does not include both. There is no supporting information or support is incomplete.
Organization and Structure	The paper breaks the information into similarities - to-differences structure. It follows a consistent order when discussing	The paper breaks the information into similarities - to-difference structure but does not follow a consistent order when	The paper breaks the information into similarities - to-differences structure, but some information is in the wrong section. Some details are not in	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized.

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	the comparison.	discussing the comparison.	a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader.	
Transitions	The paper moves smoothly from one idea to the next. The paper uses comparison and contrast transition words to show relationships between ideas. The paper uses a variety of sentence structures and transitions.	The paper moves from one idea to the next, but there is little variety. The paper uses comparison and contrast transition words to show relationships between ideas.	Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas are fuzzy.	The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent.
Format	MLA format: Proper heading, size 12 font, Times New Roman or Cambria, Indented paragraphs, 5 paragraph essay, at least two pages in length.	Missing one requirement in MLA format	Missing two requirements of MLA format	Missing three or more requirements of MLA format
Conventions	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.