

8th-Grade Summer Reading

Rising 8th-grade students will be required to read two novels over the summer:

Required:

- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

Choose one of the following:

- *I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Reader's Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne

While students are reading their novels, we strongly recommend that they become an active reader while reading their summer selections. These activities include taking notes over each chapter and highlighting key information. These strategies will help them with comprehension and complete related projects to these books.

The first novel, *The Princess Bride*, will be read first and then students will write a five-paragraph essay addressing the following idea:

Essay prompt: Choose one of the following themes and explain how that theme is developed in the novel. Use the planning guide below to prepare your response.

Possible Themes (Choose one):

- Marriage
- Love
- Society and Class
- Revenge

Planning guide

Theme:

Specific examples (quotes) from the novel where this theme is present:

1)

2)

3)

Requirements:

- Include name, date, grade, and class
- 12 point New Times Roman font
- Double spaced
- Use three different pieces of textual evidence to support your analysis. You can use a short quote or paraphrase. Please include the page number in your citation.
- Introductory and conclusion paragraphs should contain a thesis statement.
- Use transition words and phrases to connect ideas.
- Write in the third person- do not use first or second person personal pronouns unless it is used in a quote.
- Write in active voice.

Use the following outline to help you organize your essay.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Hook
 - B. Background
 - C. Thesis
- II. Body Paragraph One
 - A. Topic Sentence
 - B. Background to introduce quote
 - C. Evidence (quote with page number)
 - D. Explain
- III. Body Paragraph Two
 - A. Topic Sentence
 - B. Background to introduce quote
 - C. Evidence (quote with page number)
 - D. Explain
- IV. Body Paragraph Three
 - E. Topic Sentence
 - F. Background to introduce quote
 - G. Evidence (quote with page number)
 - H. Explain
- V. Conclusion

- A. Thesis Restated
- B. Closing- leave your reader something to ponder.

*** This assignment will be due the first Friday after we return from school.**

The second novel, *I am Malala* or *Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, should be read toward the end of the summer. When students return to school, we will complete a classroom project based on the book.

7th-Grade Summer Reading

Rising 7th-grade students will be required to read two novels over the summer:

Required:

- *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town (adapted for young people)* by Warren St. John

Choose one of the following:

- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead
- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

While students are reading their novels, we strongly recommend that they become an active reader while reading their summer selections. These activities include taking notes over each chapter and highlighting key information. These strategies will help them with comprehension and complete related projects to these books.

The first novel, *Outcasts United*, will be read first and the student will answer the following questions in paragraph form. Please include a topic sentence that uses the question to make your point. Also, please use evidence from the text in the form of a quote to support your answer.

- **Discrimination:** In what ways do the refugees experience discrimination? How do they react? Why are they so fearful to stand up for themselves? How does Luma help fight the discrimination that affects her team (*Outcasts United*)?
- **Cultural Identity:** What issues does the experience of living in a new country present to the refugees in this book? How does the move affect the refugees' identity? How does soccer help define the refugees' identity?
- **Community:** How does Luma work to create a community with her diverse players? What do the refugee families have in common that helps create a sense of solidarity? How does the community of the "old" Clarkson citizens react to the refugees and the changes they bring?

*** This assignment will be due the first Friday after we return from school.**

The second novel, *When You Reach Me* or *Among the Hidden*, should be read toward the end of the summer. When students return to school, we will complete a classroom project based on the book.