

WMS Recommended Summer Reading Assignment

The summer reading recommendations are encouraged to reinforce skills and promote strong reading habits. The content of the independent reading books will help ELA teachers gauge baseline abilities in reading and writing as they start the process of relationship building with your child in the fall.

Reading Expectations:

- Students can read one fiction and one nonfiction text that have a common theme, setting, motif, or idea. **Students may select any book that is available to them with parent consent.** The ELA teachers have made reading recommendations, and will also guide students in how to access texts for free in digital form at each grade level. A list of digital resources to help access books from lock down is available at the end of this document.

Writing Expectations:

- Students can complete three prompts for the fiction text of their choice, and three prompts for the nonfiction text of their choice. The list of prompts is included in this packet.

Assignment Steps:

1. Over the summer, choose a pairing of **one fiction and one non-fiction** book to read. If the student does not like a book, they may stop. If the two books do not match in theme or topic, the prompts are still worthwhile. The goal is to choose six prompts to answer based on the summer reading (three for the fiction text, three for the nonfiction text).

Each paragraph should have:

- [1] A clear topic sentence that provides and answer to the prompt (thesis).
- [2] A brief introduction displaying where the quote appears in the text.
- [3] A quote from the text that illustrates or supports the point that you are making in your topic sentence.
- [4] Multiple sentences that offer analysis of the text based on the focus of the prompt.
- [5] A clear concluding statement.

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FICTION PROMPTS: Choose THREE from the following

- 1 Choose a significant passage (between one sentence and one paragraph) that reveals the book's theme, or central message. Record the passage and page number, and explain how it relates to the theme.
- 2 Why do you think the author chose the title he/she did? Analyze its deeper meaning. If it is an obvious title, rename it something more symbolic and explain your rationale.
- 3 From whose point of view is the story told? What other voices could tell the story? Be sure to explain how the story would be different from this other, new perspective.
- 4 What is the main problem/obstacle/mystery that the characters/people must overcome/solve? How was this problem resolved? Was this a satisfactory conclusion?
- 5 Do you think the characters/people and their problems/decisions/relationships are believable/realistic? Why or why not?
- 6 How is your book structured/organized? How does the way the author structures his/her book affect the story and your appreciation of the book?
- 7 For your book, what is more important, the characters or the plot? Was the plot moved forward by the decisions of the characters or were the characters at the mercy of the plot? How did it affect your enjoyment of the book?
- 8 When did you get stuck while reading? What was confusing you about your book? What strategies did you use to help you read better?
- 9 Comment on the author's style and use of language. Is it effective or ineffective? Does it add to or detract from your enjoyment of the book?
- 10 Choose a character and explain the psychology behind his/her choices. How is this character affected by the environment, the ways other people see him/her, and the ways he/she sees himself/herself?
- 11 Are there any particularly vivid images that stand out? What effect do these images have on the writers' purpose?
- 12 Does the writer use devices of humor? Puns? Irony? Sarcasm? Understatement? Parody? How did these devices influence your enjoyment of the book?

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NON-FICTION PROMPTS: Choose THREE from the following

- 1 How does the author establish authenticity in the text? Consider the facts, statistics, and research that are used to make the book seem “real.”
- 2 What is one thing that is unique about this nonfiction book? Explain this uniqueness.
- 3 What ideas might you have for turning this work of nonfiction into a work of fiction? Give a brief summary of what your story might be like. These should be meaningful and relevant to the author’s purpose.
- 4 In what ways can the information in the book be applied to your life? Be specific by choosing a specific element from the text as well as a specific aspect of your life.
- 5 Does the author have an overall purpose/message to the book? If so, what is it and how do you know this is the message?
- 6 How does the book incorporate literary elements such as characterization, figurative language (metaphor, simile, etc.), and narrative? What effect do these elements have on the book?
- 7 What questions did you ask yourself about the text as you were reading? How did these questions help you understand the book?
- 8 What prior knowledge did you bring to the reading that helped you understand the book? Be sure to choose a specific part of the book to support your answer.
- 9 How does the author establish his/her credibility? Explain specific ways the author presents himself/herself as a trustworthy and qualified messenger?
- 10 Analyze the attitude of the writer. How does his/her tone extend the meaning of the book? Does this tone change or stay consistent? Be sure to comment on the effectiveness of this tone.
- 11 How does the writer use diction? Is it formal? Informal? Technical? Jargon? Slang? Is the language emotionally evocative? Does the language change throughout the piece? How does the language contribute to the writers' aim?
- 12 Are there any particularly vivid images that stand out? What effect do these images have on the writers' purpose?

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Digital Resources to Find and Access Books from Home:

Book Selection -- Here are resources to help with book selection:

- www.modernlibrary.com/top-100/100-best-novels/
- www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.cfm
- teenreads.com/
- www.yournextread.com/us/

MackinVIA – Access to all of Wissahickon library’s online resources. Both ebook and audio are available. Students use their school email/password to log in.

<https://wissahickon.mackinvia.com/titles?page=1&limit=18&sort=0&resourceType=3>

ManyBooks – an awesome resource (completely free) that categorizes ebooks by genre.

<https://manybooks.net/>

The Overdrive and Libby Apps – just need a library card. You will have access to all of the e-books and audio books that are currently available in your country’s public library system. Download on a smartphone to begin.

<https://app.overdrive.com/#download>

<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>

ReadPrint: Easy to search through – wide selection of free online books.

<http://www.readprint.com/online-books>

Goodreads – has a “Free Online” selection. Their Young Adult counterpart, EpicReads, is also linked below, but that only has books available for sale.

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/free-online>

<https://www.epicreads.com/>

Project Gutenberg: With a collection of more than 45,000 free e-books, Project Gutenberg is a volunteer effort to create and share e-books online. The online format is a bit awkward to search through, but it is a good place. If you google the title of a book and “PDF” (i.e., Tom Sawyer PDF) this is the version that will usually come up.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Googlebooks: This option has limited selection of free books, however it just takes a bit of searching to come up with something good.

<https://play.google.com/store/books>

OpenCulture – mostly high level classics, but a great aggregator of resources!

<http://www.openculture.com/freeaudiobooks>