

Tales of a 6th Grade Reader

Why do we read over the summer??

The goal of summer reading is to establish a community of readers.

Summer is a perfect time for you to

- * Read and ENJOY new books
- * Discover the pleasures that reading can provide
- * Maintain reading skills

You should read **AT LEAST** the two books I am assigning.¹ Kids who don't read over the summer lose reading ability and comprehension over the break. You do not want that to happen to you!! If you are not sure what to read, consider reading a book by an author you like. You could also ask friends, family, or a librarian for suggestions on what to read. Email me if you want my help! I will be checking my email all summer and I'm constantly thinking about books my students may enjoy.

If you choose something that you don't like, change books and start over! In the words of a little-known author...

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

- J.K. Rowling

¹ What two books?! Come on... you can read more than TWO BOOKS!

1st Reading Book- Totally your choice!

Read anything you'd like this summer! You read that correctly, you get to choose the book you read! There are only two rules.

- ③ **Choose a book that interests you!**
- ③ **Make sure the book is appropriate for your age and reading level!**

2nd Reading Book - A memoir of someone who interests you!

The word 'memoir' comes from the word memoire, which is French for 'memory' or 'reminiscence'. Memoirs are a type of autobiography because the author writes about his or her life. However, while an autobiography focuses on the chronology of the writer's entire life, a memoir covers one specific aspect of the writer's life. This summer I want you to read a memoir of someone who interests you! If you not sure where to start, browse this list for some ideas.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/best-memoirs-for-kids-and-teens>

We will be examining memoirs at the beginning of the year, within the context of both reading and writing. Over the summer start thinking of your own life as a big research project. How would the story of your life read? What stories would make their way into your memoir?

Create an End of Novel "One Pager" Response to the novel you chose to read.

What is a One Pager you ask? A One Pager is a single-page response that shows your understanding of a piece of text you have read. It is a way to respond to your reading using imagination and creativity!

The Rules

- Create a one-pager for your free choice book.
- Read the instructions carefully and follow them. Do the project on 8 ½ by 11 sheet of **unlined** paper. If you need a bigger piece of paper to get your thoughts down, go for it!
- Use a lot of color and patterns to illustrate your thoughts and ideas clearly and creatively. Show that you read and thought about the book you chose.

What to Do

Include the following on the **front**...

1. Title of novel and author's name
2. 5 adjectives you would use to describe the novel
3. One important quotation (A sentence or two from the novel) - Write the quotation in quotation marks - Include the page number - Next to the quotation, explain why this is important to the story (i.e. "This quotation shows me...")
4. Answer **one** of the following questions:
 - a.) Write about something you found interesting, important, or surprised you. Explain why
 - b.) What is the theme or lesson learned from this book? How might this apply to your life?
 - c.) How did your feelings or thinking change throughout the book?
5. At least 3 drawings, symbols, and/or images that represent parts of the story - Use color, be creative, be neat, and fill the page! This should be fun!!

Include the following on the **back**...

1. A paragraph summary of the selection that includes details about the plot, setting, characters, main ideas and conflicts, and the ending. Also put your name!

What Not to Do

- Don't not (double negative = positive!) enjoy yourself. This project should be fun...and creative...and FUN! No stress!

Still Not Sure What to Do?

- That's ok! Go ahead and Google "One Pager Reading Response" you will see plenty of examples to get you started.

Write a Letter to the Author of the Memoir You Read

After you have read the memoir of your choice, write a letter to the author responding to the text. Your letter should follow the "Friendly Letter" formatting rules - Google if you need a refresher! Please use Times New Roman, Size 12. Please bring your letter on the first day of ELA class.

Paragraph 1

Introduce yourself. Explain that you read their memoir for your summer reading assignment. Share some information about yourself and why you chose to read his or her memoir. This paragraph should be at least five (5) sentences long.

Paragraph 2

Share your general impressions of the book. Did you like it? If so, what did you like about it? Do you think it's a good book for a middle school student to read? Then, describe a scene that you think was very well written or interesting.

Paragraph 3

Ask any questions you have for the author. Tell him or her anything else you want the author to know.

Paragraph 4

Thank the author for reading your letter. Ask him or her to write you back.

Complimentary Close

Your Signature