

Eighth Grade Literature Summer Reading

Mrs. Costanzo 703-680-4164

Supply List

Literature –

- Marble Composition Book
- Four Subject dividers (to be used with last year's binder)
- If you are a new student, you need a three-ring literature binder

English – Yellow Pocket folder to keep all returned worksheets and notes

Dear Parents.

Please do not edit, correct, or change your child's summer work before it is turned in to me. I believe that it is important for your child's growth and helps him or her take responsibility for the work. Thank you for your cooperation.

Karen Costanzo

This summer project is due on the first day of school. A homework warning will be issued for any project not turned in on the first day of school and ten points will be deducted for each day it is late. After the third day, the project will not be accepted and a zero will be recorded for the grade. The summer reading counts as three test and three homework grades. Projects may be typed or on loose leaf.

1. Short Story

Read the following short stories by Edgar Allen Poe:

- a. "The Fall of the House of Usher"
- b. "The Masque of the Red Death"
- c. "The Cask of Amontillado"

For each story, answer the following in essay form. Who is the main character? What conflict or dilemma must the main character face? How is his conflict resolved? What is Poe saying about people and life through the story? How can you apply this lesson to your own life? **This should not be a plot summary.** You must answer the questions in your essay. These stories can be found in any Poe anthology.

2. Poetry

Read the attached six poems by Langston Hughes. Write a paragraph on each of the poems you read explaining what you think the message of the poem is. What makes the poem special? How can the message of the poem apply to your own life? You can't just tell me that it doesn't apply!

Poems by Langston Hughes

1. *The Dream Keeper*

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers,
Bring me all of your heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

2. *Beggar Boy*

What is there within this beggar lad
That I can neither hear nor feel nor see,
That I can neither know nor understand
And still it calls to me?

Is not he but a shadow in the sun –
A bit of clay, brown, ugly, given life?
And yet he plays upon his flute a wild free tune
As if Fate had not bled him with her knife?

3. *In Time of Silver Rain*

In time of silver rain
The earth
Puts forth new life again
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads
 Of life,
 Of life,
 Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies
Lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth
New leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,
In time of silver rain
 When spring
 And new life
 Are new.

4. *Dreams*

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow

5. *As I Grew Older*

It was a long time ago
I have almost forgotten my dream.
But it was there then,
In front of me,
Bright like a sun –
My dream
And then the wall rose,
Rose slowly,
Slowly,
Between me and my dream.
Rose slowly, slowly,
Dimming,
Hiding,
The light of my dream.
Rose until it touched the sky –
The wall.

Shadow.
I am black.
I lie down in the shadow.
No longer the light of my dream before me,
Above me.
Only the thick wall.
Only the shadow.

My hands!
My dark hands!
Break through the wall!
Find my dream!
Help me to shatter this darkness,
To smash this night,
To break this shadow
Into a thousand lights of sun,
Into a thousand whirling dreams
Of sun!

6. *Youth*

We have tomorrow
Bright before us
Like a flame.
Yesterday
A night-gone thing,
A sun-down name.
And dawn-today
Broad arch above the road we came.
We march!

Seventh Grade Literature Summer Reading

Mrs. Costanzo 703-680-4164

Supply List

- Marble Composition Book for Journal. You may continue writing in the sixth grade journal if there are enough blank pages.
- Three-ring binder with four subject dividers, if needed. You should use the same binder that was used in sixth grade. **Keep all sixth grade notes and vocab!**
- English 7 – A yellow pocket folder for handouts.

Dear Parents.

Please do not edit, correct, or change your child's summer work before it is turned in to me. I believe that it is important for your child's growth and helps him or her take responsibility for the work. Thank you for your cooperation.

Karen Costanzo

This summer project is due on the first day of school. A homework warning will be issued for any project not turned in on the first day of school and ten points will be deducted for each day it is late. After the third day, the project will not be accepted and a zero will be recorded for the grade. **The summer reading counts as three homework and three test grades.** Projects may be typed or on loose leaf.

1. Novel

Read Holes by Louis Sachar. Keep a reading journal for every five chapters. Comment on what you read as you are reading it. You should have a minimum of one paragraph for every five chapters. Your paragraphs should have a minimum of five sentences each. There are 50 chapters, so you will have 10 entries. You should write the chapters you are writing about as headers, for example; Chapters 1 – 5, Chapters 6 – 10, etc.

In the reading journal, you should record your reactions, thoughts, and feelings about what you are reading. When you have finished the journal, answer the following questions in paragraph form. Who are the main characters? What kind of people are they? What are their character traits? How do the characters grow and mature as the book progresses? What is the main conflict in this book? How is it resolved? What statement is the author making about people and life? How can you apply what you've learned from this book to your own life? **This should not be a plot summary!!!**

2. The Miracle Worker by William Gibson

Keep a reading journal for **each** act as you read this play. In the journal, record your reactions, thoughts, and feelings about what you are reading. When you have finished the play, answer the following questions. Each answer to each question must be at least one paragraph. How does the relationship between Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan change and grow as the play progresses? What does Helen learn about life from Annie and what does Annie learn from Helen. What did you learn about life from this play and how can you apply it to your own life? You may **not** say that it just doesn't apply to your life. Plays are meant to be performed. What problems might you have if you were producing this play on stage? What famous actors would you have play the main parts? **Remember, this should not be a plot summary!!!**

Sixth Grade Literature Summer Reading

Mrs. Costanzo 703-680-4164

Supply List:

-Marble Composition Book

-Three-ring binder

-Five subject dividers

-Kleenex and/or paper towels for the Resource Room would be greatly appreciated.

Please put them in a separate bag marked with my name so they don't get mixed up with donations to the sixth grade class.

Dear Parents,

Please do not edit, correct, or change your child's summer work before it is turned in to me. I believe that it is important for your child's growth and helps him or her take responsibility for the work. Thank you for your cooperation.

This summer project is due on the first day of school. A homework warning will be issued for any project not turned in on the first day of school and ten points will be deducted for each day it is late. After the third day, the project will not be accepted and a zero will be recorded for the grade. The summer work counts as three homework and three test grades. Projects may be typed or written on loose leaf.

Choose one biography and one autobiography to read. A biography is the story of a person's life written by another person. An autobiography is when a person tells his or her own life story. Each book must be between 125 and 150 pages long and may not be a young child's book. Parents must approve both books before they are read. Write a report for each book. You should include the following in your reports and **each** point should be at least one paragraph long:

-Title and author of the book

-Background information on the person's life

-Important accomplishments

-Things the person had to overcome to achieve his or her goals

-People who had an impact on the person's life and what the impact was

-What you learned about life from studying this person and how you can apply it to your own life