

Rising Grade 8: Summer Reading Instructions

For your summer reading, you will need to read **TWO BOOKS TOTAL**. Read **one** of the following books for a **poster** activity:

- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech, OR
- *When Life Gives You Mangoes* by Kereen Getten.

For this first activity, obtain a poster paper larger than 8-1/2 x 11" but smaller than 2'x3'.

On this poster, draw or illustrate the main character of the book you read. Your illustration should represent what that character looks like based upon your reading of the book.

Title your poster with the title of the book, correctly capitalized and underlined, and its author.

Then find a memorable quote from the book, and add this to the bottom or side of your illustration. Explain what this quote means and why you picked it. Make sure you put quotation marks around your quote, but not around your explanation!

Finally, explain the importance of this character to the story. Why is this the main character? What is this character like, and does he or she change? If so, how?

Both parts of your Summer Reading are due the first day of school!

How You Will Be Graded for Part One:

1. Main character illustration and explanation are accurate, showing thought and effort: **20 points**
2. Title and author of the book are at the top of the poster, properly capitalized and punctuated: **10 points**
3. Memorable quote and its explanation reflect an understanding of the text: **15 points**
4. Poster is neat and looks like your best and final work: **5 points**

Overall Points for Part One: 50 points

For the second part of your summer reading, you will need to obtain and read one of the following books:

- * *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sis,
- * *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson, OR
- * *Hoot* by Carl Hiassen.

You will need a composition book for this activity. You may use one from prior years, provided you have enough pages to complete it this year, too.

As you read, you will write a double-entry response journal. It is due the first day of school.

Directions for the Double-Entry Journal:

1. On each page of your journal, create two columns. Label the first, "What the Text Says" and the second, "My Response."
2. You may write more than one response on each page, provided they are neat and organized. It is best to use a box for each of your responses, like the example shown below.
3. You will do at least 20 entries, from selections spaced evenly throughout the book, in page order.
4. Each entry should be neat, accurate, and in complete sentences.
5. On the left side of your double-entry journal, copy exactly a quote from the book. *You should pick a quote that is key to the passage, that helps develop the theme(s) of the book, or one that is interesting to you or that presents a problem or character trait.* It could be interesting language, or a critical fact, a main idea, a problem, or a character description.
6. Remember to add quotation marks around your quote, and copy your quote exactly as written. This means you will need to start a new line and indent for new paragraphs, and include punctuation and spelling exactly as written in the original.
7. At the end of your quote, remember to add parenthesis and include the page number or numbers where you found that quote inside those parenthesis. This is called *citation*, which we did for your research paper this year.
8. Your quote should be at least two sentences.

9. On the right side of your double-entry journal, reflect and respond to your chosen quote. You may write about what you think it means; what effect it has on the plot, characters, or setting; or any questions it prompts you to ask. You may respond with your feelings, connections, explanations, theories, predictions, inferences, conclusions, or analyses. Use the sentence starters below to help you respond: You may use any of them, as often as you like.
10. Your response should be at least two complete sentences. Remember I am looking more for *substance, thought, and reflection* than length or correct grammar or spelling. Follow the 3:1 rule—for each quote, write three times its size in *thoughtful reflections*. Don't sacrifice substance for length—your response need not ramble on and on or repeat, but it should reflect what that quote means to you, or why you picked it, and *what its significance to the whole text* is or may be. This means you must read and select quotes that strike you as meaningful, or that resonate with you somehow!

Sentence Starters for the Right Side of Your Double-Entry
Journal:

"I think the author is saying that . . ."

"I had a similar conflict/situation when . . ."

"The author created a _____ mood in these sentences by . . ."

"This passage makes me think of . . ."

"These sentences remind me of a time when . . ."

"This relates to another book/story I've read where _____ (tell what you read earlier here) because . . ."

"I am confused about _____ because . . ."

"I thought _____ about _____ (something or someone in the book). Now my thinking has changed, because . . ."

"I wonder why . . ."

"I infer . . ."

Example of a Double-Response Journal from Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak*:

What the Text Says	My Response
<p>"This was the girl who suffered through Brownies with me, who taught me how to swim, who understood about my parents, who didn't make fun of my bedroom. If there is anyone in the entire galaxy I am dying to tell what really happened, it's Rachel. My throat burns" (5).</p>	<p>I wonder why she can't tell Rachel what happened. What DID happen? The author isn't telling us. I guess she's trying to keep us in suspense. It seems like Rachel was a really good friend, because she understood so much about the narrator. What could be so bad that she can't even tell her best friend (if that's what Rachel was)? Why does her throat burn?</p>

How You Will Be Graded:

- Each entry shall be worth 4 points:
 - 2 points possible for each response that shows critical thinking, thoughtfulness and an understanding of the text.
 - 2 possible points for each selection you quoted, for choosing key passages that reflect an understanding of the story and for copying it exactly. (Remember that accurately quoting means to include paragraph spaces and/or indentations.)

Total possible: 80 pts.

- 20 additional points can be earned for having a neat, thorough journal that followed these directions.

Overall total: 100 points.

Due date: First day of school.

Enjoy!!