8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2014-2015



OPTION 1: READ ONE BOOK FROM THE LIST BELOW

DIRECTIONS: Select one of the novels listed below, answer the reflection questions, and complete the attached graphic organizer.

DUE ON THE 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL: Bring your annotated summer reading book, your typed response, and the completed character map.

STEP 1: Read one of the novels listed below:

1984* George Orwell
Alas Babylon* Pat Frank

Left Hand of Darkness*Ursula K. Le GuinFahrenheit 451*Ray BradburyThe WaveTodd StrasserThe UgliesScott WesterfeldTruesightStahler David Jr.MatchedAlly Condie

STEP 2: While reading, keep track of the following elements in the story by writing notes in your book. If you can, use a four-color pen to identify them.

GREEN Characters: Who are the important characters in the story?

What words does the author use to describe them?

How do the characters grow or change? (draw a Δ in the margins)

BLACK Setting: Where does the story take place?

Plot: What important events take place?

Vocabulary: Whenever you see a word you don't know, draw a box around it.

BLUE Theme: Does anything remind you of an event from another story,

historic event, or one from your own life? What images and symbols keep recurring? What key messages or ideas does

the author convey?

RED Reaction: How do you feel about the story while reading? Use the symbols

in the box to record your reaction in the page margins.

⊜ = Happy
 ⊕ = Sad
 ♥ = Love
 OMG = Shock
 LOL = Funny
 ? = Confused
 ! = Angry

Change

Equals

Similar

Δ

=

STEP 3: Briefly answer the following questions in typed or handwritten complete sentences. THIS IS NOT THE ESSAY, nor do you have to write lengthy paragraph responses.

- 1. Who are the main characters in your novel? What role do these characters play in society? How do their roles change?
- 2. Do the characters live in a good society or is it flawed? How does the setting affect the story? In what ways could society improve to meet the needs of its people?
- 3. What are the main characters' goals or desires? Do they achieve them? What obstacles stand in the way?
- STEP 4: Complete the graphic organizer on the following page: provide examples and page numbers from both the beginning and the end of the novel.

^{*} Contains mature subject matter. Parental consent is advised.

	BEGINNING	END
How do your characters gain knowledge? When do your characters start to see the world differently?	What don't they know in the beginning? What beliefs do your characters have? How do they see the world around them?	What do they learn by the end? Which beliefs turn out to be false? How does their point-of-view change?
How do your characters take responsibility?	When do your characters blame others for their problems? When do your characters think about the needs of others?	How do your characters accept the consequences of their actions? When do your characters put other people's needs before their own?
When do your characters start to think and act independently?	When are your characters told what to think or how to act? On whom do they rely for information, guidance, and support?	When do your characters start to think for themselves? How do they start to make their own choices?
How does society change?	What obstacles in society prevent your characters from changing or thinking for themselves? How are characters encouraged to conform (be the same as everyone else)?	What changes must be made in society before the main characters can accomplish their goals? How do the people with power try to prevent this from happening?