

Required Summer School Reading Assignment

Hebrew Language Academy: 7th grade

Due: Friday, September 29, 2017

Dear Rising 7th Grader,

Congratulations on completing your Sixth Grade year! We hope your summer is filled with excitement and the long needed break you deserve. While you are vacationing, or enjoying the comfort of sleeping an extra hour or two, we do not want you to forget the ability to appreciate a wonderful book. HLA has high expectations for students' literacy development. Parents and teachers would agree that inactive reading leads to losing the cognitive skills you have gained throughout the school year. In order to bridge this gap, HLA strongly enforces summer reading activities for all students. Reading really isn't homework, it is a life skill that everyone needs to live a successful life. All students must complete summer reading activities before the Seventh Grade year begins. **This assignment is due Friday, September 29th** AND will count as a project grade for English Language Arts.

Step 1: Choose TWO novels your summer reading project from the choices listed below. Note: All of these books are available at Barnes and Noble, amazon.com, or at most public libraries.

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The Big Thirst by Barbara Kingsolver

The Boy in the Stripped Pajamas by John Boyne

Step 2: Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper, using textual evidence to support your response.

1. What topics were discussed in each of the books your books? What was the author's reason to write about those topics?
2. What writing techniques did the writer use? How can you uses these techniques in your own writing?
3. What did you learn about the topics in each of your books?

Step 3: Choose one activity from each of the options listed below.

Level 1: Appetizer (Choose one)

Comic Strip - Create a graphic cartoon depicting one conflict within your story. Your graphic cartoon must have at least six boxes with a dialogue cloud in each box.

Glossary - Find 10 words in each of the two books and create a word glossary for the back of your books. Be sure to reference the page number each word was found on. Also, create an example sentence for each word.

Book Jacket - Create a book jacket for your book (fiction or nonfiction). Make sure to include a new title, cover picture, information about the author, and an objective summary on the back cover. Also, include three or four quotes from people about the book.

Level 2: Entrée (Choose one)

Interview with a Character - Interview a character from your novel or non-fiction book. The interview must have twenty open ended questions with no yes or no responses. If recorded the interview must be five minute long. If written the interview must be three pages.

New Chapters - Write one new chapter for each book you have read. Make sure each chapter is at least two pages. Use sensory details to “show” instead of “tell”.

Essay – Write an informational essay that answers the question: What is the theme of one of your books? How did the writer support this theme? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

Level 3: Dessert (Choose one)

News Story - Write an objective (without opinion) news story reporting the events in your fiction or nonfiction book. Must be at least a page.

Song Lyrics - Write and perform a song or poem about the emotional relationships between the characters in your novel or nonfiction book. Song must be a minimum of 2 minutes in length.

Poem – Write 2 poems in any style you would like. Your poems should be about a conflict one character from each book is facing from his/her perspective.

The following rubric will be used to grade your Summer Reading assignment:

100% - Exemplary/Exceeds Standard: Student demonstrated that he/she read a book pair and completed ALL parts and responses show evidence of a DEEP understanding of the novels.

85% - Proficient/Satisfactory: Student demonstrated that he/she read a book pair and completed ALL parts and responses show evidence of a BASIC understanding of the novels.

70% - Developing/Needs Improvement: Student completed SOME parts and the responses show evidence of a basic understanding of the novels.

55% - Insufficient/Unsatisfactory: Student completed FEW or NO parts with little to no understanding of the novels.