

Required Summer School Reading Assignment

Hebrew Language Academy: 8th grade

Due: Friday, September 29, 2017

Dear Rising 8th Grader,

Congratulations on completing your Seventh 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 Eighth 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. When choosing, you should keep in mind how you did in the individual NWEA sections. For example, if you scored above average in literature, but below average in non-fiction, you should read at least one non-fiction text. Note: All of these books are available at Barnes and Noble, amazon.com, or at most public libraries.

Fiction	Non-Fiction
The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen	We are the Weather Makers by Tim Flannery
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card	Fields of Fury by James M. McPherson

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

1. What similarities did you see in your books? What differences?
2. How did the writer develop multi-dimensional characters? What could the writer have done differently?
3. What themes appeared in the books? What did you learn about these themes?

Step 3: Complete two of the following exercises for your first book:

Sneaky Snoop – As an investigative reporter, you sneak into the home of the main character in your novel. Report at least 10 items that you find and include a picture (hand-drawn or digital) for each item. Also include a written explanation (2-3 sentences per item) identifying how each item connects to the main character. These items may or may not have been mentioned in the novel.

T-Chart – Label T-Chart with two characters from your book. Write at least 10 comparisons about your book pair. You can tell how they are alike and how they are different. Use complete sentences in your comparisons.

Dear Diary – Pretend to be one of the main characters from your novel and write a series of 4 diary entries from their point of view. Explain how this character is thinking/feeling about a pivotal event, major

decision, etc. Reflect on what is happening as well as how the character may be changed. (Must be over one page)

Poetry/Song – Write two poems or songs that connect to your novel. You can focus on the plot (what happened), characters or personal connections that you have with this novel. *Must be 30 lines or longer.

Rewrite – Re-write the ending to the book with a new chapter. Your chapter can replace the old ending or add onto it. Use dialogue and sensory details to “show” instead of “tell”.

Step 4: Complete one of the following exercises for your second book.

-Essay – Write an essay that answers the following question, depending on your book:

Devil’s Arithmetic or *Fields of Fury*: How did the writer include history in the writing in order to make it stronger? Which of these methods can you see yourself using in future writing?

Ender’s Game or *We are the Weather Makers*: How did the writer include technology in your book? In what ways is it different than what you would have expected?

-Create a book sleeve – Fold a sheet of paper like it’s a hard cover book jacket. On the cover, create/include an illustration that will describe the novel. On the inside flap write a description of the main character. On the inside back flap write a description of the central problem/conflict. On the back cover discuss the idea of change throughout this novel using examples from the text.

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.