

**MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS SUMMER READING '08
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7 & 8**

The LCPS English/Language Arts curriculum aims to help students develop skills for thinking critically and independently. In pursuit of this objective, the LCPS English/Language Arts instructional staff expects all students entering grades 7 and 8 to read at least one book over the summer. We offer the option of completing an assignment based on the reading of one of the books.

Reading, and all the various processes it involves, is important intellectual labor that can be the gateway to developing a life of serious independent learning. We hope that the summer reading assignment will help all of our students have an enjoyable intellectual experience.

Parents & Students—PARTNERS IN READING!

Parent Involvement

We strongly recommend that students and parents make the summer reading choice together to find the best match for the student's interest and the family's standards. The book selected should be appropriate for independent study; that is, the student should be able to understand the book and complete the summer assignment without assistance from a teacher or from parents. However, we enthusiastically encourage parents to read the book with their child so that the family can discuss the reading. Reading together is a great way to improve students' reading skills and involve the family in a fun activity.

Titles & Assignment

The assignment is due by interims. **Although this assignment will be counted as EXTRA CREDIT, all students are encouraged to complete it. Students who do complete the assignment will receive an extra credit score, to be determined by the school.**

This notice is available in the LCPS central office, in every school's guidance office, and on the LCPS website. *Exceptions may be made for students moving into LCPS from another school system,* but **each LCPS student entering grades 7 and 8 is expected to make every effort to complete the summer reading.**

A list of recommended titles is available at LCPS middle schools. Some of the books are available at LCPS middle school libraries for checkout over the summer. Check-out should be facilitated through students' English classes or the school's guidance office. Other titles can be obtained through the Loudoun County public library system or purchased at local bookstores. Students may opt to read a book not on this list; however, students should read a book that is on or above their reading level.

Strategies

Some readers benefit from taking notes. Confusing passages may be marked so that the reader can relocate them easily to reread or write about them in the reading log. It may help for readers to write in their books, highlight or underline important passages, and/or write down questions or words to define, if the student owns the book. If a book belongs to the school or library, sticky notes are useful for facilitating this type of active reading.

Goals: LCPS English teachers support summer reading...

- to help students develop reading as a lifelong skill. In other words, reading is not something we do just during school;
- to cultivate independent learners;
- to introduce students to the kind of material they might not usually come in contact with and with types of thinking and experiences that can help broaden their knowledge base; and
- to show students how literature can provide meaning in their daily lives.

Benefits: We believe that summer reading will help students...

- read good books that might not be read during the school year;
- improve their overall academic performance and be better prepared for the expectations of post-secondary study;
- develop sound reading habits and achieve higher S.A.T. verbal scores;
- increase reading speed and the ability to process printed information;
- improve their attention span, vocabulary, and ability to recognize acceptable grammar usage;
- learn about thoughts, ideas, and life experiences beyond their own;
- become better writers;
- engage their imaginations; and
- remain academically charged and intellectually engaged during the extended summer vacation.



**MIDDLE SCHOOL E/LA SUMMER READING '08 ASSIGNMENT
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7 & 8**



Extra Credit Assignment

Requirements

This work must be completed on a separate piece of paper. Please put your name at the top of the paper. Your work should be neat and legible. Typed assignments are acceptable and appreciated. Your work should be complete and thoughtful to count for extra credit.

Part I: Reading Check. Answer each question. Your answer to each question should be one paragraph, between 5 and 10 sentences.

1. What is the title of your book? Who is the author of your book? Why did you select this book?
2. Summarize the plot (the action and events) of the book.
3. On a 4-star scale (4 is best), how many stars does your book rate? Explain why.

Part II: Literary Response. Answer 2. Your answer for each question should be one paragraph, between 5 and 10 sentences.

1. What was the most exciting or important part of the book? Why was it exciting or important?
2. Describe the setting. Explain its significance to the story.
3. Compare this book to another book, a movie, or a TV show. How is it similar and different?
4. Find a sentence or passage in the book that you really like. Write it down and explain in detail why you like it.