



Royal West Academy
Grade 8
2015 Summer Reading Instructions

Students are free to read as many books as they wish from the Summer Reading List, but every student must read *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie and two additional books of their choosing from the list provided. No other titles may be substituted.

1. **During the first week of classes there will be a Summer Reading Test based on the novels read.**
2. In addition, **notes must be taken** (details are below) while reading their book selections during the summer and these notes will be **collected on the first full day of school.**

The **notes are to be organized** and labeled **under the following headings:**

- a) **Title and Author:** a record of the title (underlined) and author's full name.
 - b) **Main Characters:** record impressions on a maximum of two main characters describing their **physical traits** (include gender, name, and age as well), and **psychological traits** (personality traits, with brief examples from the story to support these traits). Each description is to be approximately **50 words**.
 - c) **Setting:** record the time period, place of events, duration of events, and social conditions if applicable—for example, is there evidence of racism or war?
Approximately **50 Words**.
 - d) **Conflict:** record whether it is an **internal or external conflict**, and more specifically **what are the two opposing forces?** Then **explain the conflict**—how it began (the **complicating incident**) and how it was resolved. Use the appropriate terminology. For example, “in the **rising action.....**”, and “the **climactic moment** is when...” ,and “the resolution is...”
Approximately **100 words**.
 - e) **Theme:** provide a short concise description of the theme with some evidence. Remember that one word like “friendship” is not a theme but a thematic subject. Theme is a statement that can be made out about humankind and ro society in general. For example, “Friendships in adversity make difficult times easier to manage.” Approximately **50 words**.
3. **Do not use someone else's notes or copy notes from an outside source including the internet (even partially) as this constitutes plagiarism.**
 4. **Please be mindful of the word count for the notes.**

The aim of summer reading is to provide an enjoyable and varied reading experience, and to ensure exposure to writers who may not have been previously encountered. It is hoped that parents will show interest in their child's reading, but will allow the activity to be the sole responsibility of the student.