

Grade 8  
2019 Summer Reading Instructions

Students are free to read as many books as they wish from the Summer Reading List, but **every student must read *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros and two additional books** of their choosing **from the list provided**. No other titles may be substituted.

***Mosquitoland* by David Arnold**

***The Night Gardener* by Jonathan Auxier**

***And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie**

***If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson**

***The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim (The Story of Owen#1)* by E.K. Johnson**

1. During the first weeks of classes there will be a Summer Reading Assignment based on the novels read.
2. In addition, the questions must be answered—**handwritten** (details are below)—while reading the book selections during the summer and these notes will be collected on the first full day of school.
3. You are to answer truthfully and individually based off of your personal reading experience.
4. Please respect the word count.

The notes are to **adhere to the suggested word counts** and be organized and labeled under the following **headings**:

- a) **Title and Author:** a record of the title (underlined) and author's full name.
- b) **Characters:** Which character could this novel **not** do without? Why? Approximately **75 words**
- c) **Setting:** What impact does the setting have on the characters and the story? Use details and examples to support your answer. Approximately **75 Words**
- d) **Conflict:** What are the different conflicts in the story (are they internal or external conflict?), and which conflict do you think is the most important to the story? Why? Approximately **100 words**
- e) **Big Idea:** Once you have finished reading the novel, what idea or concept has stood out most for you. Explain why. Approximately **75 words**
- f) **Opinion:** What is one thing you strongly liked or disliked about this book? Explain. Approximately **75 words**

Overall approximate total: 400 words.

1. We are looking for your personal reaction to these books, so do not use someone else's notes or copy notes from an outside source including the internet (even partially) as this constitutes plagiarism.
2. If you use outside sources to help you understand what you've read, be sure that you tell us where you got your information from by citing it.

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.