

Grade 8

2018 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

Haroun and the Sea of Stories – by Salman Rushdie

The Chrysalids – by John Wyndham

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, notes must be taken – **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.

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) **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 character's description is to be approx. **75 words for a total of 150 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 **75 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 or 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 respect the word count.

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.