

8th Grade Summer Reading

Rationale: Assigned reading is designed to provide enrichment for students over the summer. Students are required to read approved selections that give them an introduction to the level of reading that will be expected for 8th grade.

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Assignment 1

Required Text: Brian Jacques's *Redwall* (Book 1) ISBN-10: 0142302376 ISBN-13: 978-0142302378

This novel is required reading. As you read *Redwall*, you should note sections and sentences of the text that remind you of your own personal experiences, ideas you have read in other texts, and of society in general.

PROCEDURE:

You must:

- Complete 10 connections, 3 of each type, plus 1 of your choice.
- Write at least 3-5 sentences to explain each connection.
- Give the page number, paragraph, or line number of the part you are responding to.
- Mention which type of connection (Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, or Text-to-World) you are using (see below for more explanation).

Types of Connections:

1. **Text-to-Personal Experience:** these are connections that we make between the text and our own life or experiences. Ask yourself the following questions to make Text-to-Self connections:

What does this remind me of in my life?

What is this similar to in my life?

How is this different from my life?

Has something like this ever happened to me?

How does this relate to my life?

What were my feelings when I read this?

2. **Text-to-Ideas in Other Text:** these are connections that you make between the text you are reading and something you have read in the past. Use the following sentence starters to make these kinds of connections:

What does this remind me of in another book I've read?

How is this text similar to other things I've read?

How is this different from other books I've read?

Have I read about something like this before?

3. Text-to-Society: these are connections that we make between the text and what we know about the world around us. As you read, you may be reminded of something you saw on t.v., heard on the news, or even learned in another class. Use the following sentence stems to make text-to-world connections:

- What does this remind me of in the real world?
- How is this text similar to things that happen in the real world?
- How is this different from things that happen in the real world?
- How did that part relate to the world around me?

Your assignment should be set up in this format:

Passage: The Book: Record the quote (or paraphrase) from the book that grabbed you:	Response: Explain your connection using one of the provided sentence starters. Explain why
Type of Connection: _____ Quote: _____ Page # _____, Chapter _____	This part reminds me of.... I felt like...(character) when I.... If that happened to me I would.... This book reminds me of...(another text) because.... I can relate to...(part of text) because one time.... Something similar happened to me when....

This is an example of how the assignment should look:

Type of Connection: Text-to-Personal Experience Quote/Paraphrase: “They always told us that one day we would move into a house, a real house that would be ours for always so we wouldn't have to move each year.” Pg #12, Chapter 3	I can relate to this idea of moving because when I was little, we moved three times in 1 year! Just when I would get used to a house or a neighborhood or a group of friends, we would have to pack up again and move. I know that this was hard, and I think the narrator is not happy about this.
Type of Connection: Text-to-Text Quote/Paraphrase: This section is about Alicia who wants to study and go to school, but her father tells her that girls are supposed to cook and clean, not go to college. Pg #22, Chapter 4	This reminds me of the article I read about Malala, the girl who was shot by the Taliban for trying to go to school. I know that there are places in the world where girls are not allowed to go to school. This must be frustrating
Type of Connection: Text-to-Society Quote/Paraphrase: “No, this isn't my house I say and shake my head as if shaking could undo the year I've lived here. I don't belong. I don't ever want to come from here.” Pg #15, Chapter 4	In this part of the book, Esperanza is feeling disappointed about where she is living. It doesn't feel like home and she is ashamed of it. It reminds me of the refugees that I hear about in the news: they have been forced to leave their homes, and the places they must live in must feel uncomfortable, strange, and ugly to them

Students should be prepared to submit this assignment on the first day of class. A copy of their assignment should be saved on their school issued iPads.

Assignment 2

Choice Text: (choose one of the following)

Anne of Green Gables – Lucy Maud Montgomery

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

The City of Ember – Jeanne DuPrau

Writing Prompt:

Analysis is the thinking skill of breaking ideas down into parts and explaining how they work. For this essay, you will analyze your selected novel and focus on characters. Throughout most works of fiction, characters undergo personal changes. These changes are usually driven by either pressure from the outside world, or from some conflict within the character. Choose one of the characters from the novel you read and explain the changes that your character undergoes throughout the novel. These may include what the character was like when the novel began, what factors forced he or she to change, and what the character was like by the novel's end. **You should be prepared to submit this assignment on the first day of class. A copy of the assignment should be saved on your school issued iPad.**

BE SURE TO clearly state your thesis/main idea, organize your thoughts in a manner that develops your thesis/main idea, use words/wording appropriate to your topic and edit your writing for grammar/mechanics.