

Everett Public Schools
Grades 7 & 8
2009 Summer Reading List

GRADE 7 – choose one

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen
Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney
The River by Gary Paulsen
Eyes of the Emperor by Graham Salisbury
Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages

GRADE 8 – choose one

My Brother, My Sister and I by Yoko Watkins
Milkweed, by Jerry Spinelli
House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Last Book in the Universe by Rodman Philbrick
I, Juan de Pareja, Elizabeth Borton De Trevino

These selections can be found at the Parlin and Shute Libraries of Everett. You may also purchase these selections at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, or at your book store of preference.

Summer Reading Assignment

Each student is required to:

1. Read at least one selection from the appropriate grade list.
2. Complete a reader response journal (see attached).
3. Take a reading comprehension test for your selection.

The reader response journal is due on the Friday of the second week of school for all 7th and 8th grade students.

The reading comprehension test will also be administered on the Friday of the second week of school. It includes a combination of multiple-choice, open-response, and/or short answer questions

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Reader Response Journal

As you read the novel, take note of important quotations and their page number. These quotes may reveal important information about the plot, conflict, and characters of the selection.

You will write a reader response for each quotation you record. Your response is a place for you to record and explore ideas that are aimed at helping you to learn as you read the novel.

Instructions:

1. Draw a line down the middle of the paper, creating two columns.
2. The left column is used for the quotations and their page numbers from the reading.
3. The right column is used for commenting on the quotations, including your personal reactions. Your comments may include the following:
 - What does this quotation make you think of?
 - What are your feelings towards the author's words?
 - Discuss a quotation you did not understand.
 - Discuss the quotation and why you think it is important?
 - Discuss the connection quotation you have chosen.
 - Periodically, reread the previous notes you have take, and discuss connections you may have noticed later.
4. Grade 7 students are required to comment on a collection of at least 20 quotations. Grade 8 students are required to comment on a collection of at least 25 quotations.
5. See sample included.

Sample Reader Response Journal
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Quotations

p. 9-10 "‘When the war ends,’ Mrs. Johnson said. She glanced through the window down to the street corner where the soldiers stood, their faces impassive beneath the metal helmets. ‘When the soldiers leave.’”

p.16 “‘That is Sweden you are seeing,’ Uncle Henrik had told her. ‘You are looking across to another country.’”

p.32 “The next evening’s newspaper had told the sad truth. The Danes had destroyed their own naval fleet, blowing up the vessels one by one, as the Germans approached to take over the ships for their own use.”

My Notes

This reminds me of the War in Iraq today. There are soldiers on every corner. They have no sugar, sweets, or even butter! They are living in terrible conditions. I think many Iraqis must feel this way.

When they visited their uncle, they looked towards Sweden and discussed their freedom. I am predicting that they might try to smuggle themselves to Sweden.

When she heard the explosions in her own country, she was frightened. Her mother lied, and told her it was fireworks. I was very little when 9/11/01 happened. My mother didn’t tell me the truth because she knew I would be scared. This is similar.

Dialectical Journal Rubric

Category	A	B	C	D/F
Left: Selection of detail	Selected passages are detailed, complex, and meaningful; reflect a variety of plot and quote selections	Selected passages are meaningful; include both plot and quote selections	Selected passages include few meaningful details	Selected passages have little or no apparent significance or meaning
Left and Right: Literary Elements	Includes specific reference to literary qualities such author's word choice, style, and characterization, relating to the overall meaning of the work.	Includes discussion of literary elements; does not completely address how they contribute to meaning	Includes some identification of literary elements; has virtually no discussion of contribution to meaning	Includes few literary elements; has virtually no discussion of contribution to meaning
Right: Interpretation and commentary	Commentary provides thoughtful insight and connection to themes (avoids clichés)	Commentary intelligently addresses thematic connections	Commentary is vague and/or unsupported with little connection to theme	Commentary involves paraphrase or plot summary
Right: Personal connections and questions	Insightful personal connections and thought-provoking questions	Appropriate personal connections and pertinent questions	Limited personal connections and few or obvious questions	Limited personal connection and no good questions
Overall Effect: Appearance	Organized and professional	Neat and easily legible	Not easily legible	Sloppy and organized
Overall Effect: Coverage of text and assignment	Thoroughly and completely addresses all parts of the assignment; directions are followed	Adequately addresses all parts of the assignment; directions are followed	Not thorough (addresses most of the assignment); not all directions were followed.	Too short; directions were not followed

