

2011 Summer Reading

Grade 8

Choose three (3) from the following titles.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi (Historical Fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger aboard a seedy ship on a transatlantic voyage from England to America in 1832, becomes caught up in a feud between the murderous captain and his mutinous crew.

And Then There Were None, by Agatha Christie (Mystery)

Ten strangers--each with a sordid past--are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival.

King of Shadows, by Susan Cooper (Historical Fiction, Fantasy)

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Greene (Historical Fiction)

When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

Across Five Aprils, by Irene Hunt (Historical fiction)

Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusack (Historical fiction)

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

The Declaration, by Gemma Malley (Science fiction)

In 2140 England, where drugs enable people to live forever and children are illegal, teenaged Anna, an obedient "Surplus" training to become a house servant, has her world view challenged when she meets Peter and discovers that her birth parents are trying to find her.

The Killer Angels, by Michael Shaara (Historical fiction)

A fictional account of four days in July, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg discussing tactics, plans, and preparations for battle from both the Northern and Southern points of view.



Summer 2011 Reading Assignments for Grade 8

Novel #1 – Book Report

For one of the novels, write a *two-page book report, typed, double-spaced*

Report FCA's:

1. Format: Two pages (no more), typed, double-spaced (5 points)
2. Content: Includes an introductory paragraph, summary of 2-3 paragraphs, and concluding paragraph (60 points)
3. Mechanics: Complete sentences and no spelling errors (10 points)

Your report should have a cover that is illustrated with a favorite scene from the book.

Cover FCA's:

1. Title and author are on the cover (5 points)
2. Colorful illustration (10 points)
3. Neat, detailed work (i.e., effort is apparent) (10 points)

Novel #2 – Project

For the second novel, choose one project from the list below:

Option #1: Point of View – Choose a character that is not the main character and retell an important scene in the story from his or her point of view. Create an illustration to go with the retelling. Be sure the retelling has a beginning, middle, and ending; the writing is typed, 1-2 pages, double-spaced; illustration is neat, detailed, and colorful (may be on paper or poster board)

Option #2: Poem or Song – Write a one-page poem or song about the story. It may summarize the story, tell about a character, or tell about an event in the story. Be sure that the poem/song includes emotions and details that make a picture in your mind. (Please do not write an acrostic poem.)

Option #3: Poster – Create a poster or collage using pictures to depict important ideas, events, and themes from the story. For each picture you use, write a sentence telling what the picture represents about the story.

Novel #3 - Book Jacket

Create an illustrated book cover which includes the title and author.

On the inside front flap, write a summary of the book with at least three paragraphs. On the back flap, write a book review.

FCA's:

1. Three good paragraphs (50 points)
2. Descriptive words (20 points)
3. Punctuation and spelling (10 points)
4. Cover with illustration/title/author (20 points)