

Greetings, Grade 7 Scholars!

While I am sure each of you has already found your way to some good summer reading, below is a list of great books to add to your summer inventory. As part of your summer reading assignment, you should choose two of these books to read, one from each group. (Please choose books you have not read before and unabridged versions.) You will then write a one page review (2 paragraphs long) of one of the two books you have chosen. You will also make a creative project inspired by the other book you have read. (See details below.) Happy reading! I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the books you read when we meet in September.

Classic Novels

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Peter Pan by James Barrie

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Kim by Rudyard Kipling

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Emmuska von Orczy

Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne

Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea by Jules Verne

Modern Novels/Titles

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Snowbird by Patricia Calvert

My Antonia by Willa Cather

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

Hornblower Saga: Beat to Quarters by C.S. Forester

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The Princess Bride by William Goldman

Lost Horizon by James Hilton

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Leguin

A Ring of Endless Light by Madeleine L'Engle

White Fang or *Call of the Wild* by Jack London

Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Rascal by Sterling North

Master and Commander by Patrick O'Brian

My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok

Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Holes by Louis Sachar

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R. R. Tolkien

The Invisible Man by H. G. Wells

The Book Review

Write a one-page (two-paragraph) review of one of the two books you have chosen to read. The review must be typed and double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font and one-inch margins. Turn in both a rough and a final draft. Mechanics count!

★ Paragraph One

In the first paragraph describe the book's genre, setting (time and place), main characters, and plot. When you describe the plot, think about the central conflict that needs to be resolved in the story or the key problem that needs to be solved. Conflicts can be between different characters; within a single character; between one character and a society or political system; or between a character and the natural world. Describe this conflict and its ultimate resolution. Did the main character learn anything from this conflict?

★ Paragraph Two

In the second paragraph, describe the overarching theme of the novel. What idea or point holds the story together? What message does the author want to get across to the reader in telling this story? (For example, love is stronger than hate; enduring hardship may make a person stronger or develop wisdom; the importance of friendship; respect for those who are different; respect for the earth; the dangers of technology; the inhumanity of modern industrial forces; etc.) Describe one or two specific scenes that bring the theme of the novel to light. For example, in *A Tale of Two Cities*, several scenes with Lucie and her father, Dr. Manette, demonstrate the transformative power of love.

Note: You should include at least one passage from the text, with a citation, in each paragraph.

The Creative Project

Choose from the list of project ideas below. Be sure that your project is neatly done, presented in a polished manner, and labeled with your name and the title/author of the book you have read.

- Create a game based on the book.
- Write and illustrate a children's version of the book.
- Write a series of letters between the main character and another character (~5 letters).
- Write a series of journal entries from the point of view of one of the characters (~3 typed pages).
- Write a letter to the author of the story explaining why you did/did not find the story compelling; suggest how you might change the plot line/characters/setting to make the story more convincing or suggest the outline of a prequel/sequel.
- Write a play based on the book.
- Build a detailed model based on the book.
- Write a song based on the book and set it to original music.
- Create an advertising campaign for your book. If the novel has been made into a film, do not use materials that have already been created.

Remember to:

Put your name on the project.

Indicate the title of the book, properly formatted, and the author's name on the project somewhere.