

## English Language Arts Summer Reading 2019 - 2020

### Grade 7: Summer Reading BOOK REVIEW

***Read one fiction book at your reading level or above.***

In grade 7 we cover *A Long Walk to Water* and *Pygmalion* as our central texts, along with supplementary literary pieces. Students will learn the importance of identifying main ideas in a text, a skill that is built upon in the following grades and is a basis for understanding complex works of literature. In addition, students should begin to form thoughtful and thorough opinions about the literature they are reading beyond whether they think something is good or bad. As students read a work of fiction this summer, they should focus on identifying the main ideas and explaining their opinion of the book in detail.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Title and Author's Full Name
- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book — what message is the author trying to tell you, the reader, about a certain topic? (Ex. Friendship helps you keep going even through difficult times.)
- A favorite passage/excerpt ***that relates to the book's thematic statement*** (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an **explanation** as to why you chose this passage to represent the thematic statement - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 3 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement.

### Grade 8: Summer Reading BOOK REVIEW

***Read one fiction book at your reading level or above.***

In grade 8 we cover *Inside Out & Back Again* and *Unbroken* as our central texts, along with supplementary literary pieces. Students will continue to build on the importance of identifying main ideas in a text and offering thoughtful opinions on a work of literature. "Coming of Age" is a major theme that is studied in the 8th grade through the concept of dynamic characters, and is explored in poetry and historical fiction, as well as other informational texts. As you read a work of fiction this summer, identify the main ideas, explain your opinion of the book in detail, and analyze how the story connects to the "Coming of Age" theme.

**Coming of Age:** A “Coming of Age” story focuses on the maturation of the protagonist as he or she grows from youth to adulthood. This transition from childhood differs for everyone and is part of what makes “Coming of Age” a very popular theme in literature.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Title and Author’s Full Name
- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt **that relates to the book’s thematic statement** (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an **explanation** as to why you chose this passage to represent the thematic statement. - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 3 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book’s thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement.

### **Grade 9: Summer Reading UNIVERSAL TRUTH**

***Read one fiction book at your reading level or above.***

In grade 9 we cover *Speak*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Of Mice and Men*, and a selection of personal essays as our central texts, in addition to a variety of supplementary literary pieces. Students at this level will explore author’s craft in developing deeper thematic messages in literature. A major element of this year’s study is the concept of Universal Truth in literature and students will be asked to unpack how a character’s journey relates to humanity as a whole.

As you read a work of fiction this summer, consider how that novel might be exhibiting a specific message that could be considered a Universal Truth. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring these themes, and you will be responsible for sharing connections to your book in both writing and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Title and Author’s Full Name
- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt **that relates to the book’s thematic statement** (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an **explanation** as to why you chose this passage to represent the thematic statement. - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!

- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 5 minute presentation. that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

### **Grade 10: Summer Reading THEMATIC REFLECTION**

***Read one fiction or nonfiction book by an author outside North America.***

In grade 10 we cover *Antigone*, *Animal Farm*, *The Kite Runner*, *Night*, *Othello*, and a selection of short stories as our central texts, in addition to a variety of supplementary literary pieces. Students will study one's identity as a member of a cultural community. In literature, we see stories based on the themes underlying voice throughout history, and these themes allow us to examine human nature through literature in order to better understand ourselves and those around us.

As you read a work of literature this summer, consider how that text might be exhibiting elements of one of the following thematic concepts. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring the development of these thematic concepts into themes, and you will be responsible for sharing connections to your book in both written and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Title and Author's Full Name
- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt ***that relates to the book's thematic statement*** (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an **explanation** as to why you chose this passage to represent the thematic statement. - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Match the storyline you identified with one of the five themes noted here and explore the significance of the culture from which the book originated. Provide an explanation as to how the story you read conforms in some way to the theme. Include specific supporting textual evidence of the plot elements you identify: descriptions of events; character or narrative quotations; and literary features such as figurative language, structure, or style.
- Analyze the value of using the theme to represent the author's culture—how does the theme reflect the struggle for identity? What is the author trying to convey by using this theme?

- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 5 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

## **Thematic Concepts:**

### **Culture & Conflict**

- What constitutes culture?
- What happens when cultures collide?
- How is culture shaped, evolved, and/or destroyed?
- How is identity reflected in/tied to environments?

### **Leadership**

- How do leaders use language?
- What constitutes leadership?
- How does a leader establish credibility and authority?
- How can leadership act as a force of good or evil?

### **Power & Language**

- How do power and authority operate through language?
- What's being revealed/concealed in language/stories?
- What constitutes power and authority?

### **Insiders & Outsiders**

- What are the processes of centralization and marginalization?
- What is being elevated; what is being suppressed?
- Is there always an insider and an outsider?

### **Voices Carry Over Time**

- Where does my voice come from?
- How do I gain a voice?
- How does my voice reflect cultural values?
- Multiple Perspectives:
  - Can two people see the same thing?
  - Are there always two sides to a story?

## Grade 11: Summer Reading BOOK REVIEW

**Read one fiction or nonfiction book by an American Author.**

In grade 11 we cover *The Crucible*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Things They Carried* as our central texts, in addition to a variety of supplementary literary pieces. Students study the progress of American national identity from the pre-colonial period to the present. This year is key in preparing for the New York State ELA Regents exam in June, as students will be asked to read and write about a variety of literary genres.

For your summer reading, prepare a presentation about a fiction or nonfiction text by an American author. As you read this summer, consider how your selected text conveys a theme. Identifying theme will be a signature skill related to exploring national identity in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring how national identity is reflected thematically in literature; you will be responsible for sharing connections to how theme is reflected in your book in both written and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Title and Author's Full Name
- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- Establish a purpose (what is the theme and how does the author go about conveying the theme?—think about literary elements and the relation to an American identity. The emphasis is more on how the text works than what happens and what it means - avoid summarizing the plot.)
- Analysis (explain and explore how the author uses literary elements to convey his or her ideas...in addition to literary elements, consider themes and archetypes you have been studying over the past few years)
- Evaluation (explore how well the author achieved what s/he set out to achieve; make a judgment of the author's use of literary techniques; explore the value of the literary techniques this author uses to reflect this theme)
- A favorite passage/excerpt **that relates to the book's thematic statement** (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an **explanation** as to why you chose this passage to represent the thematic statement. - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 5-7 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take.

Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

## **Grade 12: Summer Reading MULTIPLE BOOK REVIEW**

***Read one fiction and one nonfiction book.***

In grade 12 students study various literary genres and writing modes. Students encounter and explore historical, literary, and cultural movements reflected in fiction, nonfiction, art, film, music, and language, and they will write college application essays, personal essays, Op-Eds, profiles, and short travel pieces.

For your summer reading, prepare a presentation about a related fiction and nonfiction text. As you read this summer, consider how your selected texts convey a theme. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring how multiple texts and genres reflect common themes; you will be responsible for sharing connections to how theme is reflected in your books in both written and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Title and Author's Full Name
- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- Establish a purpose (what is the theme and how does the author go about conveying the theme?—think about literary elements and the relation to an American identity. The emphasis is more on how the text works than what happens and what it means - avoid summarizing the plot.)
- Analysis (explain and explore how the author uses literary elements to convey his or her ideas...in addition to literary elements, consider themes and archetypes you have been studying over the past few years)
- Evaluation (explore how well the author achieved what s/he set out to achieve; make a judgment of the author's use of literary techniques; explore the value of the literary techniques this author uses to reflect this theme)
- A favorite passage/excerpt ***that relates to the book's thematic statement*** (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an **explanation** as to why you chose this passage to represent the thematic statement. - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 7-10 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).