

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS AND PROJECT FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 6, 7, and 8 in SEPTEMBER 2021

Middle school students are required to read two books and prepare a project related to one book during the summer before their entry/re-entry into middle school. Titles/authors of recommended books and grade-level project requirements are reviewed and/or updated on an annual basis. This sheet explains which books students may select and includes guidelines for this summer's required projects.

All middle school students entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are required to read one of the three books of fiction noted below PLUS one non-fiction book of their choice. Copies of many of these books are available in the Garwood Public Library. **Parents are encouraged to assist their children in the selection of books based on their child's reading level, interest level, and content. Please carefully consider the content of non-fiction books!** Students have been briefed on the summer reading requirements and received these written guidelines prior to dismissal for summer vacation. In the event they misplace this information, they are encouraged to check the GPS website for a copy of the project outline and scoring rubric. In addition, the librarian, Mrs. Duffy, is familiar with the requirements and may be called upon for assistance as well. As with the selection of books, students are encouraged to complete their projects EARLY! Students do not need to bring copies of the books to class in the fall but their completed projects **MUST** be handed in to their respective ELA teacher **on the second day of class**. The penalty for late submissions will be a drop of one grade level for each day a project is late after the second day of school.

The following page describes the pyramid poster board project. Please note that students do not have the option of choosing the type of project to complete. All students will create a story pyramid for their book of fiction.

>Read one of the following titles: **A Wish in the Dark** by Christina Soontornvat; **We Dream of Space** by Erin Entrada Kelly; or **When You Trap a Tiger** by Tae Keller. (You may elect to read it twice: once, to get a general idea of the story and learn about the main and minor characters and a second time to focus on your pyramid elements.) Create a story pyramid for this book of fiction by carefully following the guidelines on the next page. The pyramid project is due the second day of school in September.

>Choose a non-fiction book based on your interests and reading level. Non-fiction books may be found on the YALSA lists available online; you may also choose a book that is not on the list as long as it is at or above your reading level. Prepare the summary sheet for this non-fiction book and hand it in to your ELA teacher on the second day of class in September.

TO SET UP YOUR PYRAMID...

Create a story elements pyramid. Use a straightedge to draw a full-sized triangle (pyramid) on a standard (large) piece of poster board (which is roughly 22" x 28"). **IMPORTANT: The side that is 22" is the BASE of your triangle. Do not trim it! Find the center point at the top of the poster board then use a straightedge to draw the sides of the triangle. Again, be sure the base of your triangle is 22" and the top point of your triangle is about 28" from the bottom.**

Use a ruler and divide the triangle into ten **equal sections**, starting at the top and working down. Write the title for each section (listed below) in each section. Then write the "answer," the specific information for each section, **in complete sentence form** in the space as well. (For example, in the second section write AUTHOR and next to it write, "The author of Holes is Lois Lowry." In the next section write SETTING and next to it write, "The setting of Holes is a boys' camp in Texas.") *PLEASE NOTE: Not every response should be written in the form of ONE sentence. Some responses must be elaborated upon, that is explained, in several sentences.*

Next, select any seven of the ten sections and draw a corresponding picture next to the written response. (It may be difficult to draw a picture of the author, so do not illustrate that section. It may be much easier to illustrate the setting, so once the written portion has been completed, use color and **fill the space** with a hand-drawn picture of the setting. Pictures printed from the computer may not be used, but students may type and print the sentences for each section, cut them out, and **glue** them down. Neat, handwritten work is preferable.)

Finally, cut out the finished pyramid (it should be as "tall" as the original piece of posterboard) and glue the rubric to the back.

1. *Student's name, grade in September, and the date the project was completed*
2. *Title (underlined), author, and illustrator (if there is one)*
3. *Setting (time and place)*
4. *Main character(s)*
5. *Protagonist*
6. *Antagonist*
7. *Main conflict (the biggest problem for the main character)*
8. *Climax (or turning point)*
9. *Resolution*
10. *Theme (a general lesson for life: It does not include specific names, places, or events from the novel.)*

All students were shown several models of excellent projects in class prior to the start of summer vacation. If you do not remember how to set up your pyramid, please stop by the Garwood Library. A sample is available for your review.

RUBRIC TO EVALUATE A STORY ELEMENTS PYRAMID

Name _____

Date pyramid was completed _____

Title of book _____ Author's name _____

PLEASE GLUE THIS RUBRIC TO THE BACK OF THE PYRAMID OR YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR YOUR PROJECT!

NOTE: ALL work—including illustrations, typing, printing, etc.—must be in the student's own hand.

SUMMER READING PROJECT	OUTSTANDING	GREAT	SATISFACTORY	ATTEMPTED	POOR
<p style="text-align: center;">CONTENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *well-written *responses for numbers 7-10 are written in sentence form *responses are accurate *elaboration is evident in responses that require more information *free of major errors 	18-20 points	16-17 points	14-15 points	12-13 points	11-0 points
<p style="text-align: center;">ORGANIZATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *sections are completed according to step-by-step instructions provided *length of written word varies from section to section based on the information required *seven of ten sections contain DETAILED illustrations that support the written word 	9-10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5-0 points
<p style="text-align: center;">VISUAL APPEAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *balanced use of illustrations and written responses *color used appropriately *illustrations are hand drawn and support the written word** *very little white/empty space in ANY box 	9-10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5-0 points
<p style="text-align: center;">MECHANICS AND USAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *few, if any, errors in capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and grammar *there are no fragments or run-ons 	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1-0 points
<p style="text-align: center;">OVERALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *handed in on time *neat *followed all directions *rubric glued to the back *generally well-done, appears to be thoughtfully planned, and is presented with pride! 	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1-0 points

45-50 points=A

COMMENTS:

updated 5.2013//6.2017///6.2018///6.2019/////6.2021

40-44 points=B

35-39 points=C

32-34 points=D

**Students' artistic ability will not be evaluated. Their EFFORT to present a DETAILED illustration reflective of each story element will be assessed.

NON-FICTION SUMMER READING SUMMARY SHEET

Name: _____ Grade in September 2021: _____

Title of non-fiction book: _____

Author's name: _____

Date book was started: _____ Date book was completed: _____

Number of pages: _____ Copyright date: _____

Please hand write your response to each question **neatly** in the space provided. Do not add extra sheets of paper. If you are concerned about spacing, you may want to write a draft of your response on a separate sheet of paper, proofread and revise it, then recopy it in the box.

In two to three well-written sentences, explain why you selected this book.

Summarize the story/information in five to seven sentences. Focus on main ideas only. Be sure to include a reference to the setting (time and place of most of the action.)

Describe a photograph, illustration, chart, graph, map, etc. that made an impact on you. You may want to explain why you felt a personal connection to this element. Be sure you include the page number in your five to seven sentence *detailed* description.

What is your overall opinion of the book? ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor
In the space below, explain your response in three to four well-written sentences. (Try not to use the word *interesting* in your response.)

Use this space to list all the books you read this summer (other than this book of non-fiction):

Title and author:

Title and author:

Parent signature: _____