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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Once again, as a way of preparing for 8th Grade and the next school year, your child will be required to complete a summer reading assignment. Each student is required to read **ONE** book over the summer and complete an assignment for the book. The students have many different book options to choose from according to the grade they are entering in September. You can either buy the book or borrow it from the public library. Students must finish reading their book by the opening of school in September. For each book, there will be short answer questions that the students will be required to answer.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, students will be responsible for handing in their short answer question responses. The completion of this assignment will count as ONE grade for their Language Arts Class. On Friday, September 10, 2021, students will be responsible for completing an evidence-based constructed response. They will report to their Language Arts class that day, prepared to complete this assignment. They will be able to use their short answer questions (completed over the summer) and the book during the in-class writing. This in-class assignment will count as ONE grade for their Language Arts class.

We believe that reading is an essential aspect of your child's education and can only benefit them throughout their lives. Keeping students academically engaged throughout the summer is one way to continue to ensure their success in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

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Estimado Padre / Tutor,

Una vez más, como forma de prepararse para el 8º grado y el próximo año escolar, se requerirá que su hijo complete una tarea de lectura de verano. Se requiere que cada estudiante lea UN libro durante el verano y complete una tarea para el libro. Los estudiantes tienen varias opciones diferentes de libros para elegir según el grado al que ingresan en septiembre. Puede comprar el libro o pedirlo prestado en la biblioteca pública. Los estudiantes deben terminar de leer su libro antes de la apertura de la escuela en septiembre. Para cada libro, habrá preguntas de respuesta corta que los estudiantes deberán responder.

El jueves 9 de septiembre de 2021, los estudiantes serán responsables de entregar sus respuestas a las preguntas de respuesta corta. La finalización de esta tarea contará como UN grado para su clase de artes del lenguaje. El viernes 10 de septiembre de 2021, los estudiantes serán responsables de completar una respuesta construida basada en la evidencia. Informarán a su clase de artes del lenguaje ese día, preparados para completar esta tarea. Podrán usar sus preguntas de respuesta corta (completadas durante el verano) y el libro durante la escritura en clase. Esta asignación en clase contará como UN grado para su clase de Artes del Lenguaje.

Creemos que la lectura es un aspecto esencial de la educación de su hijo y solo puede beneficiarlo a lo largo de sus vidas. Mantener a los estudiantes comprometidos académicamente durante todo el verano es una forma de continuar para asegurar su éxito en el futuro. Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en comunicarse conmigo en cualquier momento.

Leslie Septor, Ed.D
Supervisor de Programa de Alfabetización

Rahway 7th and 8th Grade Academy
Entering Grade 8: Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to your summer reading assignment! Choose from the list of books below and answer the questions that follow. A rubric is also attached which clearly identifies the expectations and grading.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, you will be responsible for handing in your evidence-based response questions. You should remember to cite text from the book in all of your answers, so you may want to use post-it notes as you read. The completion of this assignment will count as ONE grade for your Language Arts class.

Monster by Walter Dean Meyers - Young, black 16-year-old Steve Harmon, an amateur filmmaker, is on trial for the murder of a Harlem drugstore owner and could face the death penalty. Steve copes by writing a movie script based on his trial. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred until he can no longer tell who he is or what the truth is.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie - Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, this novel, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

Eight Keys by Suzanne LaFleur - When Elise enters middle school, many changes come with it. Her friendships are different, there's bullying, and her family dynamics seem off, too. Then she receives a mysterious key as a gift for her 12th birthday. When she realizes that it unlocks one of the eight doors in the barn behind the house, things get very interesting.

Ungifted by Gordon Korman - A middle school troublemaker accidentally ends up in a gifted program, where he doesn't belong for more reasons than one. His adventures end up bringing humanity to a school where kids' IQ scores trump everything else. Fast-paced, insightful, and well-written.

The Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins - Before Suzanne Collins wrote the *Hunger Games* trilogy, she wrote *The Underland Chronicles*. The series tracks the adventures of a boy who falls down a manhole and ends up on journeys through the city's underbelly. All of this happens while life up on the street keeps rolling on as usual. Anyone who imagines an alternate reality will be swept up in the Underland books.

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis - Set in Afghanistan, this story centers around an 11-year-old and her family. They lose everything they have to the Taliban. When her father is arrested, Parvana comes up with a plan to disguise herself as a boy so she can earn money to support her family. The Breadwinner is the first of a three-book series that will have kids wanting the entire trilogy.

La Linea by Ann Jaramillo - Miguel's life is just beginning. Or so he thinks. Fifteen-year-old Miguel leaves his rancho deep in Mexico to migrate to California across la linea, the border, in a debut novel of life-changing, cliff-hanging moments. But Miguel's carefully laid plans change suddenly when his younger sister Elena stows away and follows him. Together, Miguel and Elena endure hardships and danger on their journey of desperation and desire, loyalty and betrayal.

More Challenging

The Call of the Wild by Jack London - First published in 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak - It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found.

Rahway 7th and 8th Grade Academy
Entering Grade 8: Summer Reading Assignment

Read any one of the following novels and answer all parts of the question with support from the text. Textual evidence should be a combination of paraphrasing and direct quotes from the text. Each question requires you to write at least one detailed paragraph. Responses should be typed or neatly handwritten.

1. Name one **protagonist** in the story and describe his or her character traits. Explain what the character does or says to demonstrate these traits. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
2. Name one **antagonist** in the story and describe his or her character traits. Explain what the character does or says to demonstrate these traits. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
3. Describe in detail the main **setting** of the story (when and where the story takes place). Describe one way that the setting affects the characters. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
4. There are four types of **conflict**: character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs. nature, and character vs. society. Choose TWO important conflicts in the story and for each conflict:
 - a. Identify the type of conflict and the characters involved in the conflict. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
 - b. Describe the conflict in detail using textual evidence to support your answer.
5. A **theme** is a lesson learned about life or human behavior. Identify one theme in the story and choose two examples that demonstrate the theme. Describe those examples in detail using textual evidence to support your ideas about theme.

Summer Reading Rubric

Grade

Student Name: _____

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Each response should be at least one paragraph in length.	Exemplary 20	Proficient 15	Developing 10	Beginning 5
<p>1. Protagonist Traits Writer provides traits and detailed textual evidence to support response.</p>				
<p>2. Antagonist Traits Writer provides traits and detailed textual evidence to support response.</p>				
<p>3. Setting Writer provides a detailed description of the setting and its effect on the characters.</p>				
<p>4. Conflict Writer describes two conflicts and identifies type of conflict and characters involved for each one.</p>				
<p>5. Theme Writer accurately identifies one theme and provides two examples that demonstrate that theme.</p>				
MECHANICS			-5	-10
GPS: Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling			Some errors in GPS	Many errors in GPS
SUB-TOTAL				