



# Welcome Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Required Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Assignments

All assignments are due on or before the first day of school, Monday, August 26, 2019

### Literature Assignments

1. ***The Merchant of Venice*** by William Shakespeare

This is a great play to begin our study of Shakespeare. Read the whole play and complete the following activities. You are being given a numbered book from school, and you will need to bring that back to school with you and return it this fall. To help support your understanding of the play, feel free to read ***No Fear Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice*** or go to Spark Notes to reinforce your understanding of the plot, characters, and key theme.

- a. Keep a "vocabulary log" of the words you do not understand even after reviewing the definitions in the book. Your log will likely be lengthy, because the spoken language during Shakespeare's time was different and he used sophisticated vocabulary. Please write the definitions for **at least 10** of the words in your log.
- b. Create a cartoon, timeline, image map, or plot journey to summarize the plot and key themes.

2. Your Favorite Genre

Create an illustration, pictograph, or comic strip that somehow **communicates the literary genre you like the most** (genres of literature include non-fiction, patterned poetry, narrative verse, short stories, novels, dramas, myths, fables, tall tales, biography, autobiography, fantasy, and historical and contemporary fiction). Your illustration must also communicate WHY you like that genre so much. Finally, your illustration must include titles and author names of three (3) of your favorite books in the genre you like most and a short phrase (bullet) that communicates what you most liked about each of those three books. Be sure to include your name on your illustration.

3. Read a book you haven't read before and create a "proposed" soundtrack for your book. Create a slide presentation (Google or Powerpoint) to explain your soundtrack. Your presentation must include a 6-10 sentence summary of the book, the 6-8 (school appropriate) songs you chose, and 2-3 sentences (for each song) describing the scene and how the song fits that particular moment. **Remember to include the song title and artist for each song.** *Optional additional component: if you are able, you may choose to create a CD or playlist to submit, or you can embed links to the songs in your presentation.*

You may choose any book to read, but your book must be approved by a parent of yours, and you should include that parent's name in your slide presentation. Below are some pre-approved suggestions (if you choose one of these, you do **not** need to e-mail me for approval).

***We Were Liars*** by E. Lockhart

***Cinder*** by Marissa Meyer

***Popular*** by Maya van Wagenen

***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen (do **not** read an abridged version)

***North and South*** by Elizabeth Gaskell

***Long Way Down*** by Jason Reynolds

***Redwall*** by Brian Jacques (do **not** read an abridged version)

***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton

***Bud, Not Buddy*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

***Eon*** by Alison Goodman

***Anne of Green Gables*** by L.M. Montgomery (do **not** read an abridged version)

***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams (do **not** read an abridged version)

***General Advice for Summer*** – Effective ongoing preparation for the *High School Placement Test* is to read voraciously (which means to read lots and lots of books!), to look up and learn any new vocabulary as you go, and to practice basic arithmetic so you are nimble with computation and general math facts. Spending time this summer on these two areas of preparation will serve you well in the HSPT!