**Independent Reading**

**8th Grade Language Arts**

**1st Quarter Reading Assignment**

**Introduction:**

A large portion of this year will revolve around independent reading. That means that you, the student, will be carefully and thoughtfully selecting several novels to read throughout the year. You will also be making goals and constructing plans to achieve those goals at the beginning of every quarter. I will cover how this will be graded in greater detail in a minute, but it is important to note that you may be asked to read more than you are used to reading. I expect you to challenge yourself during this assignment. What that looks like will depend on you as an individual, and I will help you set realistic and challenging goals for yourself in conferences.

When selecting novels, I highly encourage you to put serious thought and consideration into what book you decide to read. Reading can be enjoyable, even—dare I say it—fun, when we select books that interest us, we connect with, or represent worlds, situations, and subjects that we are curious about. You have been given the freedom to choose, take advantage of it. Don’t select a novel just because it is short or because you think it will be easy to read. This assignment will be a lot more fun and rewarding if you engage with it mindfully.

**Objective:**

In reading, I want you to use literature to know yourself and the world, to discover what reading is good for. I expect you to explore not only what you are interested in but to also experiment with different authors, genres, and subjects. It is my goal that you will begin to notice how you engage, disengage, connect, predict, and participate as individual readers. While reading should be entertaining, it should also be thought provoking, and we, as readers, should participate in mindful and intentional reading habits.

**General Instructions: (Specifics and samples will be provided later)**

1. Establish your goal and map a strategy for achieving it. Write it down in your Reading Journal.
2. Conference with me about your goal and your strategy for the quarter.
3. Carefully and thoughtfully select a book to read.
4. As homework, you will read for a minimum of 30 minutes every weekday night (Monday-Friday). Document your progress in your Homework Reading Log and have your parents sign it every night.
5. As you read, you will begin to cultivate a vocabulary list. This list will be turned in when you finish the novel and should contain a minimum of 15 entries. As you come across a word that you do not know or are not familiar with, you should write it down on your list with the page number. You will then write a prediction for what you think the word means based on context clues. Finally, you will look the word up in a dictionary and write down the dictionary definition.
6. Every Friday, you will have 20 minutes of Silent Sustained Reading—in-class reading time.
7. Every Friday, you will write a reading letter to me in your Reading Journals. I will respond to your letter and return the journal to you on Mondays.
8. Finally, when your finish the novel, you will write a Book Rave. A Rave includes a MLA citation, plot summary, three (3) themes and issues presented in the novel, and genre categorization. Your Rave should be supported with concrete details.
9. Repeat steps until you have met your page goal for the quarter. Or, go beyond your goal!!

**Pages and Grading Breakdown:**

**1st Quarter Reading Goals:**

**August 10th-September 25th**

**7 weeks**

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| --- | --- |
| **8th Grade** | |
| **Grade** | **Pages Read** |
| A | 500 |
| B | 400 |
| C | 300 |
| D | 200 |

**Suggested Time Management Strategies for Attaining your Reading Goal:**

Depending on how want to delegate your time and what your schedule looks like, you will be asked to set a reading goal for yourself. Remember, I require 30 minutes of reading every weekday (Monday- Friday) night for homework. Depending on your reading speed and your goal, you may have to add additional reading to your schedule—you as an individual will need to establish the best strategy for attaining your page goal. While 500 pages sounds like a lot, when you do the math it isn’t as daunting as it sounds. You will also have 20 minutes of silent sustained reading on Friday’s and time in class to read when you finish with your in-class assignments.

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| **8th Grade** | | | | | |
| **Reading Every Day (Monday-Sunday)**  **47 days** | | **Reading Weekdays (Monday-Friday)**  **35 days** | | **Weekly Reading**  **Pages by Week**  **7 weeks** | |
| A | 11 pages a day | A | 15 pages a day | A | 72 pages a week |
| B | 9 pages a day | B | 12 pages a day | B | 58 pages a week |
| C | 7 pages a day | C | 9 pages a day | C | 43 pages a week |
| D | 5 pages a day | D | 6 pages a day | D | 29 pages a week |

**Assignment Point Break Down for the 1st Quarter (400 points):**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment:** | **Possible Points:** | **Due Date:** |
| Weekly Reading Letters (8) | 10 points each, 80 points total | End of Class on Friday’s |
| Pages Read plus Assignments  -Vocabulary List  - Book Raves | 250 points total | Final due date: September 25th  (You will turn in assignments and pages as you finish each book. You will set individual goals and due dates prior to the final due date) |
| Reading Log (4) | 10 points each, 40 points total | August 14th  August 28th  September 11th  September 25th |
| Conferences (2) | 15 points each,  30 points total | August 7th  August 21st  September 4th  September 18th |