

Eight Grade BEAT Summer Reading

Attention Incoming 8th Grade students and parents for 2019-2020:

Both assignments should be typed and submitted to your Language Arts teacher through Edmodo by **Monday, August 26th, 2019**. (You will join an Edmodo group the first week of school)

Assignment #1: Choose ONE BOOK from the list below and read carefully:

You may buy physical copies, borrow from library, or buy e-book (recommended)

1. *Ender's Game* – by Orson Scott Card (Science Fiction)
2. *The Book Thief* – by Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction)

After reading your book of choice write a short essay (1-2 pages) answering the question below.

In each novel, the main character struggles to fit in with his/her peer group and to adjust to a new and difficult situation. In your essay describe the situation and identify why it is difficult. Then explain how the main character overcomes or does not overcome the situation. Lastly, describe how this struggle has affected the main character's identity: Andrew Wiggins becomes "Ender", while Liesel becomes "the book thief". Be sure to mention how the character views him/herself versus how he/she is viewed by others.

You should cite specific evidence (at least 3 pieces) to support your response. All citations should include author's last name and the page number or numbers.

Your assignment will be graded based on: answering all questions completely, using proper essay structure (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion), using and citing textual evidence to support answer, language conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar).

Assignment #2: A picture is worth a thousand words:

A picture is a snap shot of your life at any given moment and can mean different things to different people. Choose a picture of yourself taken over the summer and write a personal narrative explaining the story behind the picture.

Your narrative should include:

- A specific beginning, middle and end
- Descriptions of all people included in the picture
- Explanations of what happened leading up to and during the picture
- Your feelings towards the people, places or events depicted in the picture
- Reflections on the events: how did one event lead to the next, to the next
- How this one picture fits into the greater story of your life
- Submit the picture along with your narrative

In addition to the instructions above you may want to include:

- View points from other people
- Dialogue between characters
- What happened next (i.e. after the picture was taken)
- Non- chronological order (use flashbacks)

The goal of this assignment is to be creative and thorough. Tell a story that is interesting for others to read. Your narrative should focus on how events are all connected to each other. Your narrative should be as close to 1,000 words as possible.

Your assignment will be graded based on: inclusion of all requirements, logical flow of narrative, use of descriptive language, creativity, and language conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar).