



Summer Reading and Grammar

for students entering

8th Grade

8th Grade Summer Assignments

The teachers of West Shore Christian Academy believe it is important for students to continue to work on acquiring, maintaining and improving reading and analysis skills through the summer months as well as appreciating literature and reading for personal enjoyment. To that end, the teachers in the English department have put together the following list of required titles for 7th grade. Students are to complete the assigned reading, essay and grammar worksheets. All work is due upon arrival to school on August 25, 2017.

Choose one book from this list that you have not read before, read it and complete the essay assignment.

Adams	<i>Watership Down</i>
Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
Anderson	<i>Fever 1793</i>
Asimov	<i>Fantastic Voyage</i>
Auch	<i>Ashes of Roses</i>
Avi	<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i>
Babbitt	<i>The Search for Delicious</i>
Balliett	<i>Chasing Vermeer</i>
Barre	<i>Peter Pan</i>
Blos	<i>A Gathering of Days</i>
Brink	<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i>
Burnett	<i>The Secret Garden</i>
Burnford	<i>The Incredible Journey</i>
Carman	<i>Land of Elyon</i> (any book in the series)
Cleaver	<i>Where the Lilies Bloom</i>
Colfer	<i>Artemis Fowl</i> (any in the series)
Collier	<i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i>
Coombs	<i>Sarah On Her Own</i>
Creech	<i>Walk Two Moons, Replay</i>
Curtis	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>

Cushman	<i>Catherine, Called Birdy, The Midwife's Apprentice</i>
Defoe	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
Dodge	<i>Hans Brinker, or The Silver Skates</i>
DuBois	<i>21 Balloons</i>
Elliott	<i>Through Gates of Splendor</i>
Fitzhugh	<i>Harriet the Spy</i>
Flanagan	<i>Ranger's Apprentice</i> (any book of the series)
Fritz	<i>The Cabin Faced West</i>
Funke	<i>Inkheart, Inkspell, Thief Lord, Dragon Rider</i>
George	<i>Julie of the Wolves, My Side of the Mountain</i>
Giff	<i>Lily's Crossing, Nory Ryan's Song</i>
Gray	<i>Adam of the Road</i>
Haddix	<i>Among the Hidden</i> (any book in the series)
Hamilton	<i>M.C. Higgins the Great</i>
Hesse	<i>Out of the Dust</i>
Hiaasen	<i>Hoot, Flush</i>
Hunt	<i>Across Five Aprils, Up a Road Slowly</i>
Jacques	<i>Redwall</i> (any book in the series)
Johnston	<i>Joel, A Boy of Galilee</i>
Juster	<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>
Konigsburg	<i>From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler,</i>
Leppard	<i>Mandie Books</i> (any book in the series)
London	<i>The Call of the Wild, White Fang</i>
Montgomery	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> (any book in the series),
O'Dell	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>
Paolini	<i>Eragon, Eldest, Brisinger</i>
Paterson	<i>Bridge to Terebithia</i>
Rawls	<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>
Sewell	<i>Black Beauty</i>
Spinelli	<i>Wringer</i>

Twain	<i>The Prince and the Pauper, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn</i>
Verne	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
Vanderpool	<i>Moon Over Manifest</i>
Voigt	<i>Dacey's Song</i>
Wiggin	<i>Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm</i>
Wyss	<i>Swiss Family Robinson</i>

Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one of the following writing prompts below. When you are finished reading the book(s), write an essay that meets the following guidelines:

- 500 words minimum
- Times New Roman
- Size 12 font
- 1 inch margins
- Double spaced
- Must include: introduction, body, conclusion, thesis statement and quotes from the novel

Prompts:

1. One of the most revealing types of conflict occurs when a character's inner struggles are resolved at great personal price. Often, the character learns a lesson, but too late to help himself or another character. Explain how, in the work that you read, a character struggles but fails to learn a lesson in time, and thus, serves as an example for the reader. In your essay, focus on the conflict within the character. Be sure to include the price paid as part of the resolution and the lesson to be learned.
2. Often in literary works, authors choose a physical object which takes on a special significance in the work and becomes a symbol of something beyond itself. Show how, in the work that you read, the author uses a symbol to convey an important meaning. In your essay, focus on the symbol and what it symbolizes. Be sure to discuss how the author uses it to convey a message to readers.
3. What is the theme of the novel? In your introduction, state the theme of the novel. In your thesis, explain how the theme is developed. In your body paragraphs, give specific examples of scenes from the novel in which the author developed the theme.

Name _____

English 8 – Summer Grammar Review

Parts of Speech Review

We will begin eighth grade grammar doing a review of all eight parts of speech. You should already know these! Below is a list of the eight parts of speech and their definitions. Following this list is a paragraph from *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. You will need to label the part of speech of each word of this paragraph.

- 1. Nouns** - A noun is a word that names a *person, place, thing, or idea*. Nouns can be: proper (specific names that are capitalized), common (general nouns), concrete (nouns that can be physically sensed, and abstract (the “idea” nouns).
- 2. Pronouns** - A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. Pronouns can be classified in seven ways:
 - Personal** – refers to the one speaking, spoken to, or spoken about.
Ex. I, me, my, we, us, our, you, your, he, him, his, she, her, hers, they, them, their, it
 - Reflexive** – “self” pronoun (Ex. myself) refers to the subject. Ex. I made *myself* laugh.
 - Intensive** – “self” pronoun that emphasizes a word. Ex. He *himself* wrote that poem.
 - Interrogative** – introduces a question - what, who, whose, whom, which. Ex. *Who* is there?
 - Demonstrative** – points out a specific thing - this, that, these, those. Ex. *That* is my car.
 - Relative** – starts a subordinate clause - who, whose, whom, that, which.
Ex. The boy *who* sits behind me is always late to class.
 - Indefinite** – refers to a non-specific thing. Ex. some, many, none, all, one, several, any, something, someone, somebody, etc. Ex. Can *anyone* show me the way?
- 3. Adjectives** - An adjective is a word that is used to describe (or modify) a noun or a pronoun.
Adjectives can be proper when a name describes a noun. Exs. *Christmas* wreath, *Jack's* locker
- 4. Verbs** - A verb is a word that shows action or state of being in a sentence. *Action verbs* show action, while *linking verbs* show state of being (they describe the subject). *Helping verbs* can go with either action or linking verbs.
- 5. Adverbs** - An adverb is a word that describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb.
Adverbs answer the questions: *how? when? where? how often? or to what extent?*

- 6. Prepositions** - A preposition is a word that shows the *relationship* between a noun or a pronoun and the rest of the sentence. Prepositions must be memorized!
- 7. Conjunctions** - A conjunction is a word that *joins* words or groups of words. One way to remember the common conjunctions is with the acronym FANBOYS.
- 8. Interjections** - An interjection is a word that expresses *emotion*. It is set apart from the rest of the sentence with either an exclamation point or a comma.

Labeling Parts of Speech - Label the part of speech of each word in the following paragraph. Above each word write: **N** for noun, **P** for pronoun, **ADJ** for adjective, **V** for verb, **ADV** for adverb, **PREP** for preposition, **C** for Conjunction and **I** for interjection. (90 pts. total)

When the fields ended and the Granger forest fanned both sides of the road with long overhanging branches, a tall emaciated-looking boy popped suddenly from the forest trail and swung a thin arm around Stacey. It was T.J. Avery. His younger brother Claude emerged a moment later, smiling weakly. Neither boy had on shoes, and their Sunday clothing, patched and worn, hung loosely upon their frail frames. The Avery family sharecropped on Granger land.

“Well,” said T.J., jauntily swinging into step with Stacey, “here we go again startin’ another school year.”

