

8th grade Summer Reading/Writing Assignment

Directions: Please choose a novel from the book list provided. During/after reading the novel, please complete Parts 1 and 2 below. Please be sure to complete all parts of the assignment in their entirety. This assignment is due by Wednesday, 8/28. You may submit it via GAPPS or bring in a hard copy by 8/28.

We look forward to working with you next year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Binette (elaine.binette@gapps.timberlane.net)

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Part 1 (Character Analysis)

Choose three to five characters from your novel. List one character trait that you think best describes each one. Then, give an example (quote) from the book to support that particular trait. Be sure to list the chapter and page number.

Character	Trait	Example	Page Number

Part Two (Reader's Response)

Please answer the following question in a well-developed paragraph. Plan your response carefully, draft, edit , and revise before you publish your final writing piece. You may type your response or hand write (in pen) your final copy.

The theme of a story is what the author is trying to convey — in other words, the central idea of the story. The theme of a story is woven all the way through the story, and the characters' actions, interactions, and motivations all reflect the story's theme. Think about what the theme of your book may be. Explain how this theme is evident throughout the novel giving specific examples to support your thinking. Next, make a connection to ONE of the following: text to self, text to text, or text to world. Be sure to explain your thinking with specific examples.

Grade 8 Summer Reading

Quick Picks

Title	Author	Overview
<u>Take Me to the River</u>	Will Hobbs	<p>Fourteen-year-old Dylan Sands has come all the way to the Big Bend on the Texas-Mexico border to paddle the fabled Rio Grande with his cousin Rio. As the boys are packing their raft and canoe for ten days in the canyons, six Black Hawk helicopters appear overhead and race across the river into Mexico. The Army warns them that a hurricane is approaching the coast.</p> <p>Convincing themselves that their chances of running into a storm are slim, Dylan and Rio launch onto the wildest and most remote waters in the Southwest. Downriver, a man appears with a seven-year-old boy, begging for help . . . and the storm is upon them. Danger, suspense, and the ever-looming troubles in Mexico drive this white-knuckle adventure forward at a breakneck pace.</p>
<u>Saving Sky</u>	Diane Stanley	<p>The country is at war, terrorists strike at random, widespread rationing is in effect, and the power grid is down. But thirteen-year-old Sky Brightman is remarkably untouched by it all. She lives off the grid on sixty acres of rural New Mexico ranch land with chores to do and horses to ride and no television or internet to bring disturbing news into her family's adobe house. Sky's schoolmates think she's a little weird.</p> <p>Then a string of mysterious arrests begins, and her new friend, Kareem, becomes a target. Sky is finally forced to confront the world in all its complexity. Summoning her considerable courage and ingenuity, she takes a stand against injustice. With humor, hope, and fierce determination, she proves that even a child can change the world.</p>
<u>Monster</u>	Walter Dean Myers	<p>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.</p>

Intermediate

Title	Author	Overview
<u>Hidden Like Anne Frank</u>	Marcel Prins and Peter Henk Steenhuis	This is a collection of eye-opening first-person accounts that share what it was like to go into hiding during World War II. Some children were only three or four years old when they were hidden; some were teenagers. Some hid with neighbors or family, while many were with complete strangers. But all know the pain of losing their homes, their families, even their own names. They describe the secret network of brave people who kept them safe. And they share the coincidences and close escapes that made all the difference.
<u>Dear Bully</u>	Edited by Megan Kelley Hall and Carrie Jones	Today's top authors for teens come together to share their stories about bullying—as silent observers on the sidelines of high school, as victims, and as perpetrators—in a collection at turns moving and self-effacing, but always deeply personal.
Anything from the <i>Theodore Boone</i> Series	John Grisham	Though he's only thirteen, Theodore Boone has spent more time in the courtroom than almost anywhere else, and there's always a new adventure waiting. Theo happily dispenses legal advice to friends and community members, just like real lawyers.
<u>Confessions of a Murder Suspect</u>	James Patterson	On the night Malcolm and Maud Angel are murdered, Tandy Angel knows just three things: She was the last person to see her parents alive. The police have no suspects besides Tandy and her three siblings. She can't trust anyone — maybe not even herself. Tandy decides that she will have to clear the family name, but digging deeper into her powerful parents' affairs is a dangerous -- and revealing -- game. Who knows what the Angels are truly capable of.

Accelerated

Title	Author	Overview
<u>Anne Frank Diary: The of a Young Girl</u>	Anne Frank	<p>Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding.</p>
<u>The Book Thief</u>	Markus Zusak	<p>It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.</p> <p>Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.</p>
<u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>	Harper Lee	<p>The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic.</p> <p>Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos.</p>