

A.D. Henderson Middle School Literacy Department
Summer 2016

Dear Parents and Incoming 8th Grade Students,

Reading is a lifelong skill that needs to be nurtured and practiced regularly. What better way to do this than to enjoying a great book on summer vacation!

All incoming eighth grade students will be required to complete the 8th grade reading assignment, an assignment designed to develop students' critical reading skills. Please choose from the following books. Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings, Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick and if you are looking for a challenge you can read The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams. Please complete this assignment on a Google Document in font size 12, Times New Roman. This assignment will be due on the first day of school and will be vital to discussions during the first week. In addition, all eighth graders will be required to complete an argumentative/persuasive essay. Please choose a relevant topic to the book that can be debated. Read and annotate at least 3 articles to the best of your ability. Once annotated please compose a typed argumentative/persuasive essay. These essays will be due the first Friday of the week back. (8/19). Assistance will be given during the first week of school to give the students ample time to complete the essay.

The assignment will be available on the school website. Mrs. Rubin will be available to answer any questions that you may have. During the summer months, please direct your questions to Mrs. Rubin's e-mail, and she will return your message. (rubinn@fau.edu)

Have a terrific, well-rested, and well-read summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rubin
7th/8th Language Arts

After reading your book, complete each section below with thoughtful responses. Please type your responses in a google document, size 12, Times New Roman to be turned in the first day of school.

In order to achieve full credit for each bullet make sure to provide the required textual support and citations, and explain answers in detail. Any words in bold are listed in the glossary section on the following page.

1. Characterization Analysis 20 points

Use the guidelines below to help formulate the 3-4 paragraphs of analysis and make sure to embed 3-4 pieces of textual support in the analysis with proper citations.

Defend whether or not your **protagonist** is **dynamic** (changes) or **static** (stays the same).

- How do other characters react to or interact with the protagonist?
- What is the protagonist's most important personality trait? Does it help or hurt their growth?
- How does the main **conflict** in the story impact the protagonist's development? (Think about how the conflict gets resolved and its influences on the protagonist).

(See exemplar on previous page on how to answer this question)

2. Reader's Discovery-What you conclude about the text as a whole 15 points

Use the guidelines below to help formulate the two to three paragraphs of analysis and make sure to embed at least three pieces of textual support with proper citations. Try to use examples from the first section, middle section and concluding section of the book.

Based on your understanding of the characters and how they cope with the conflict, what idea might the author be trying to suggest about life?

- You must explain HOW each piece of textual support proves the message or statement(s) about life.

3. Connecting Literature to Reality 15 points

Select 1 of the quotes below to interpret. Explain in 3-4 sentences what you think the quote means. Feel free to consult a dictionary in order to understand any unfamiliar words.

- In a bulleted list, identify and explain three examples from your summer reading book that support your interpretation.
1. What loneliness is more lonely than distrust or doubt?
 2. Don't be afraid of opposition. Remember, a kite rises against, not with, the wind.
 3. All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward.

Glossary

Characterization: Characterization refers to the methods that a writer uses to develop characters. A protagonist is a person who is involved in the central conflict.

- An author may describe the physical appearance of a character.
- A character's personality may be revealed through his or her own speech, thoughts, feelings or actions.
- The speech, thoughts, feelings, or actions of other characters can be used to develop a character.
- The narrator can make direct comments about a character.

Conflict: A struggle or problem between two opposing characters or forces. An internal conflict takes place entirely within a character's own mind. In an external conflict, the problem occurs between the character and an outside force, which may be another character, nature or society as a whole.

Direct Quotes/Textual Support: Direct quotes are word-for-word passages taken from the text. Using direct quotes helps strengthen your answer to questions about the text. "Direct quote" does not mean just dialogue or parts of the story that already appear in quotation marks. Any words or phrases that you copy from the text as part of your answer should be surrounded by quotation marks followed by the page number. (Writing out the word "page" is not necessary). Example: "Joe walked slowly towards the dugout" (49).