

WMS Summer Reading Guide 2010

For Students Entering Grade 8

Summer is a great time for great books, and we would like you to read three of them before school starts. Here are the details:

Book 1) Join all of WMS in reading the All-School Book Peak. This is a great story about a teenage boy who is trying to figure out his family life while he pursues his goal of climbing very difficult mountains. After you read the book, complete the assignment you received from your language-arts teachers.

Books 2 and 3) Your choice! Pick two good books that match your personal interests and grade level and then do the following writing. (Be sure on the top to include your name, the date, and the heading "Summer Reading." Write in paragraphs and separate each section with a space and a subhead similar to the sample on the back of this sheet. Also, carefully review and correct any errors in conventions such as capitalization, spelling, etc.)

Section 1: Give basic information. Include the author, title (remember, book titles are underlined), number of pages and star rating. Give this book a star rating between 1- 5. Five is excellent and one is poor. Draw five stars and shade or color in your star rating, leaving open the rest of the stars if it is not a five. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Section 2: Summarize the book. This should be one paragraph, 5-10 sentences. It is a very brief summary. Don't tell the whole story and don't spoil any surprises. Use your own words!

Section 3: Answer this question: What big ideas does this book bring up and what was the message (if there was one)? (Big ideas are things like the value of friendship, the pain of loss or betrayal, being true to oneself, the importance of ethical behavior, the struggle to overcome obstacles, the importance of not giving up, the road to success or failure, etc.)

Section 4: Write your personal reaction to the book. (*This is the most important section of your review, so put extra effort into this section!*) Did you like it? Why, or why not? *Give examples* to explain why you did or did not enjoy the book.

You will be graded on two traits of writing. 1) Ideas: Did you use specific details to support your ideas? Was your writing thorough? Did it make sense? 2) Conventions: Did you carefully check to make sure your writing has no errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization and grammar? See the back of this sheet for an example of this assignment.

These assignments count significantly toward your first term grade. Make sure you get your reading and assignments done over the summer!