

SUMMER READING 8

Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

2021

REQUIREMENTS

Students entering the Eighth Grade at Midland Elementary/Middle School in the fall will be required to read one novel, respond to prompts, and complete a written report. The required book is *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. Students may read the book independently or parents may read to students. Students will also be assessed at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year on the novel through an Accelerated Reader test. The prompt responses, written report, and Accelerated Reader test will be due the first Friday of the school year.

My Brother Sam is Dead Summary

This young adult novel, which successfully captures the pain of the Revolutionary War, is a fine example of historical fiction. The American Revolution was a war that divided families (English loyalists versus eager Patriots) and one of the families being torn apart is the Meeker family. Young Tim sees his 16-year-old brother join the militia to fight the British, while his father tries to remain loyal to the crown. Their hometown of Redding Ridge, Connecticut is a Tory town, and it is a constant struggle for the family to remain neutral. As the war progresses, Tim has to learn some very hard lessons: Life does not always follow the easiest and happiest course.

Novel Assessment (50 Points Total)

1. Accelerated Reader Test (20 Points)
2. Prompt Responses (15 Points)
3. Written Report (15 Points)

Novel and Assignment Availability

Titles of the book are available at the Carnegie Library in Midland. Students may also purchase their own printed or digital copy of the book.

Students have been given a copy of this information, including the response prompts and writing requirements, during the last week of school. Additional copies will also be at the Midland Carnegie Library, Midland Elementary/Middle School, and on my Google Classroom Site.

Contact Information

Mrs. Tanner

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Please note that any amount of plagiarism will result in the student receiving a zero on this required summer reading.

Written Response Prompts

Student Name: _____

Characters

1. Identify and describe two personality traits of the protagonist (main character):
2. Write two examples from the novel that prove your description above. Include the page number for each example.

A. _____ (page #)

B. _____ (page #)

Characters

3. Identify and describe the antagonist (character or group of characters or institution or concept who work against the protagonist):
4. Write two examples from the novel that prove your description above. Include the page number for each example.

A. _____ (page #)

B. _____ (page #)

Conflict

5. Identify the conflicts that exist in the novel. Identify the major conflict and explain why you believe it is the major conflict.

Conflict/Personal Connection

6. What is one conflict in the novel that you have experienced in your own life. Explain in detail and compare the real-life problem in the novel to your real-life conflict.

Personal Opinion

7. What was your favorite part of the novel? Explain in detail and tell why it was your favorite part.

Theme

8. What is the theme of the novel? Provide a detailed explanation with text evidence that supports this theme.

Character/Personal Connection

9. Is the main character someone you would be friends with? Explain why or why not.

Book Report Format

This book report format is to be used for writing the report for the novel. It will be due the first Friday of the 2021-2022 school year.

Follow the directions carefully below, as this report will be graded. This report may be typed (size 12 font, double spaced) **OR** neatly handwritten.

Students will write a five paragraph report (students may use their responses to the response prompts), and the contents of each paragraph are listed below:

Introduction

The introduction should include the book title (underlined or italicized), the author, genre (fiction, nonfiction, historical fiction, etc.), setting, main character, and other characters with brief descriptions of protagonist (main character) and antagonist (character(s) working against the main character).

Paragraph 2

Summarize/Explain in your own words the conflict and rising actions of the novel.

Paragraph 3

Summarize the climax, falling actions, and resolution of the novel.

Paragraph 4

Summarize/Explain the theme of the novel. Include important quotes that help to support or prove the theme you have chosen, as well as an explanation.

Conclusion

The conclusion should include answers to the following questions. Make sure that your responses “flow” from one answer to another—use transition words; it should not read as if you are simply listing answers to the questions: What did you like/admire about the main character? Did you like the book? Explain why/why not. Would you recommend this book to a friend?

Please note that if any student plagiarizes **any** part of this report, the entire assignment will be a zero.