

Warren Hills Regional School District

Warren Hills Regional Middle School

2017 Required English Language Arts Summer Assignment

Grade 7 and 8

DIRECTIONS: Read one fiction novel of your choice. It can be any novel that interests you, but it should be grade/reading level appropriate. Attached is a list of Reader's Websites to help guide your book selection (page 2). As you read, complete the attached Story Map graphic organizer (page 3-4).

WHAT IS A STORY MAP?

A Story Map is the identification of specific plot elements in a story. The 5 basic plot elements are listed below:

1. CHARACTER

Who is the main character in your book? What is his/her physical description?
Personality? Who are the other important characters in the book?

2. SETTING

Where and when does the story take place?

3. CONFLICT

What's the main problem in the story? Is the conflict resolved in the end? How?

4. PLOT

What are the major events that take place in the story after the conflict begins?

5. THEME

What are the main ideas or underlying messages in your novel? What is the lesson the main character is supposed to learn?

DUE DATE: The Story Map organizer is due the 1st day of ELA class upon your return to school – **Wednesday, August 30, 2017** or **Thursday, August 31, 2017**. The summer assignment will be referred to and used in ELA literature units during the first few weeks of the new school year.

If there are any questions regarding the summer assignment, please contact Mr. Keith Dennison, Supervisor of English and Social Studies at dennisonk@warrenhills.org.

Top Websites for Teen Readers

Use the websites below to browse book titles, descriptions, and reviews by title, author, and topics. These are great resources to help you find a novel based on your personal interests.

* The following descriptions were taken directly from the websites.

Reading Rants: Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists!

<http://www.readingrants.org>

Reading Rants, a website featuring out of the ordinary booklists for teens, has been an online presence since 1998. Written by Jennifer Hubert and designed by Andrew Mutch, Reading Rants has become a popular book review source for teenagers as well as their grown ups. In May 2007, Andrew transformed the site into an interactive blog, where teens can respond to Jen's reviews as well as writing their own.

TeenReads

<http://www.teenreads.com>

Here's the scoop: We at Teenreads.com bring teen's info and features about their favorite authors, books, series and characters. We are a part of The Book Report Network, a group of websites founded in 1996 that share thoughtful book reviews, compelling features, in-depth author profiles and interviews, excerpts of the hottest new releases, literary games and contests, and more with readers every week. Teenreads.com is THE place online for teens to talk about their fave books --- and find the hippest new titles!

GuysRead

<http://www.guysread.com/books/>

This is the place to come if you're looking for something to get a guy reading. We've collected recommendations from teachers, librarians, booksellers, publishers, parents, and guys themselves. These are the books that guys have said they like.

Book Wink

http://http://www.bookwink.com/wink_about_us.html

Bookwink's mission is to inspire kids to read. Through podcasting and web video, we hope to connect kids in Grades 3 through 8 with books that will make them excited about reading. The videos are approximately 3 minutes long and are updated monthly. Each video booktalk is about a different topic, and additional read-alikes can be found on the Bookwink website. You can look for books by subject, grade level, author or title.

Monster Librarian

<http://www.monsterlibrarian.com/zombiesya.htm>

While zombies are popular in adult fiction and popular culture zombies are found in books, graphic novels, movies, and video games. In the past few years there has been an increase in young adult zombie titles being published where the zombies range from being relatively benign to being just as hungry and deadly as their adult counterparts.

Story Map – Plot Elements

Novel Title _____ Author _____

Directions: As you read your independent novel, map out the story by identifying and describing the 5 plot elements below in complete sentences. Include the page numbers where you find the information.

Character: Who is the main character in your novel? List two other important characters. Provide character descriptions and page numbers where you found the descriptions.

Setting: Where and when does the story take place? Write a description and provide page numbers.

Conflict: What's the main problem or conflict in your story? How does it begin? How is it finally resolved in the end? Provide page numbers.

Plot: What are the important events that occur in the novel as a result of the conflict? Include at least 3 major events. Describe fully. Provide page numbers.

Theme: What are the main ideas or messages in your novel? What is the lesson the main character is supposed to learn? Identify a theme and explain how it is portrayed in the novel. Provide page numbers where you see examples of the theme being shown.

*Themes are universal ideas or messages. Examples of common themes found in literature:

Courage & Heroism

Acceptance

Perseverance

Compassion

Friendship & Loyalty

Honesty

Love

Coming of Age (growing up & maturing)