Warren Hills Regional School District
Warren Hills Regional Middle School
2018 Required English Language Arts Summer Assignment
Grades 7 and 8

DIRECTIONS: Read one novel (work of fiction) 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? If not specifically stated, look for context clues to make an informed guess.

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 <u>no later than</u> the 1st Friday of the school year, **Friday, August 31, 2018**. 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.

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 <u>identifying and describing</u> the 5 plot elements below in complete sentences. <u>Include the page numbers</u> where you find the information.

<u>**Character**</u>: Who is the main character in your novel? Additionally, list two other important characters. Provide character descriptions and page numbers where you found the descriptions.

<u>**Setting:**</u> Where and when does the story take place? If not specifically stated, use context clues to make an informed guess. Write a description and provide page numbers.

<u>**Conflict:**</u> 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 using full and rich detail. Provide page numbers for your details.

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. Please see the examples below for guidance or inspiration.

Courage & Heroism	Acceptance
Perseverance	Compassion
Friendship & Loyalty	Honesty
Love	Coming of Age (growing up & maturing)

Name_____ Date_____ Blocks _____

ELA Summer Reading Assignment Rubric - Grades 7 and 8

	5 Exceptional – Skilled	**4** Proficient	**3** Developing	**2** Inadequate
Requirements	Student completed *all* requirements of the assignment as stated in the directions.	Student completed *most* requirements of the assignment as stated in the directions.	Student completed *some* requirements of the assignment as stated in the directions.	Student completed *few or no* requirements of the assignment as stated in the directions.
Understanding of Content	Demonstrates *complete* understanding of the novel's content. Is able to *easily* summarize information. Assignment reflects a complete reading of the text.	Demonstrates *adequate* understanding of the novel's content. Can *adequately* summarize information. Assignment reflects an *adequate* reading of the text.	Demonstrates *some* understanding of the novel's content. Can *sometimes* summarize information. Assignment reflects a *partial* reading of the text.	Demonstrates *very little* understanding of the novel's content. Has *difficulty* summarizing information. Assignment *does not* reflect a complete reading of the text.
Accuracy & Relevance	The information provided is *completely* accurate and relevant to each plot element.	The information provided is *adequately* accurate and relevant to each plot element.	The information provided is *somewhat* accurate and relevant to each plot element.	The information provided *is neither* accurate nor relevant to each plot element.
Insight	Student provides *ample* insight, and uses background knowledge and evidence from the text to support thinking.	Student provides *adequate* insight, and uses background knowledge and evidence from the text to support thinking.	Student provides *some* insight, and uses some background knowledge and evidence from the text to support thinking.	Student does not provide insight, or student *does not* include evidence from the text to support thinking.
Quality & Detail	Work is *very* detailed, thorough, and thoughtful.	Work is *adequately* detailed, thorough, and thoughtful.	Work has *some* detail.	Work *lacks* detail.

Total Score _____/25