**Hackensack Middle School**

**Grade 8 Language Arts**

**Summer Assignment**

In an effort to encourage reading for pleasure and develop lifelong independent readers, all incoming 8th graders will be required to complete this summer assignment. **This assignment is due on Friday, September 9, 2016. This assignment will be worth a test grade.** The suggested novels attached are available at Johnson Free Public Library, or students may purchase their own copy.

**Part I. Summer Reading**

* Choose a novel that is on your reading level. You may choose one of the suggested novels on the attached list or you can choose your own book. Please take note of the lexile levels when choosing your book- suing your last SRI score, try to find a close match. If you are uncertain of a book’s lexile score, you can visit [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com) to get the score.
* As you read, be sure to annotate (taking notes on characterization, theme, questions that arise, predictions, etc.) the text.

**Part II. Literary Analysis Essay**

* Choose one of the essay topics below and write a five-paragraph literary analysis essay based on your novel.
* Use the Literary Analysis Essay Outline to help you plan and organize your essay.
* Refer to the Literary Analysis Essay sample for assistance.

**Essay Topics**

1. Every author has certain themes (struggle, triumph, quest for justice, survival, friendship, freedom, overcoming obstacles, etc.) that he or she portrays through his or her writing. Identify a theme in the novel and write an essay demonstrating the message the author wants to convey. How are the main characters impacted by this theme?
2. Authors use symbolism to convey ideas and themes in their novels. Identify three uses of symbolism in the novel and explain which symbols are used and what they symbolize.
3. The development of the protagonist (main character) in a novel enhances our understanding of the story plot. Identify how the protagonist changes throughout the course of the novel.
4. Characters often grow and plots are developed through the author’s use of conflict. Identify and explain three different forms of conflict that are evident in the novel.

**Helpful Hints**

1. Try your best to use sophisticated vocabulary, appropriate grammar/sentence structure, and proofread your essay for any mechanical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) errors.
2. Be sure to use textual evidence (direct and indirect quoting as well as paraphrasing) in your body paragraphs to support your thesis.
3. Essay should be typed in font size 12 and double-spaced.