

Hackensack Middle School
Summer Assignment
Grade 8 Language Arts

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 one of the suggested novels on the list attached. Please take note of the lexile levels when choosing your book- using your last SRI score, try to find a close match.
- As you read, be sure to annotate (taking notes on characterization, questions you may have, 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 plan and organize your essay. Refer to the Literary Analysis Essay sample to help you.

Essay Topics

1. Every author has certain themes(ex.struggle,triumph,quest for justice,survival, friendship, freedom, 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 often use symbolism to convey ideas and themes in their novels. Identify three uses of symbolism in the novel and explain which symbols were used and what they symbolized.
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, capitalization, punctuation) errors.
2. Be sure to use textual evidence in your body paragraphs to support your thesis.
3. Essay should be typed in font size 12 and be double-spaced.

Literary Analysis Essay Outline

If you are having trouble writing your literary analysis essay, use this outline to help provide structure and organization in planning your essay.

Paragraph # 1 (Introduction)

- Hook- begin your essay with an engaging hook.
- Identify title and author of work.
- Provide three to four sentence summary of novel.
- Thesis statement- this should be the answer to one of the essay topic questions provided for you.

Paragraph # 2 (Support # 1)

- Topic sentence- identifies topic of paragraph.
- Supporting details- sentences that support your topic sentence, using text citations (both quoting and paraphrasing).
- Analysis and interpretation of the supporting evidence to demonstrate how it supports your thesis.

Paragraph # 3 (Support # 2)

- Topic sentence- identifies topic of paragraph.
- Supporting details- sentences that support your topic sentence, using text citations (both quoting and paraphrasing).
- Analysis and interpretation of the supporting evidence to demonstrate how it supports your thesis.

Paragraph # 4 (Support # 3)

- Topic sentence- identifies topic of paragraph.
- Supporting details- sentences that support your topic sentence, using text citations (both quoting and paraphrasing).
- Analysis and interpretation of the supporting evidence to demonstrate how it supports your thesis.

Paragraph # 5 (Conclusion)

- Re-state thesis statement.
- Re-state three arguments that support the thesis. Make a text to world or text to text connection.
- Provide a closing sentence.

Suggested Summer Reading Novels

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Genre</u>
<i>Does My Head Look Big In This</i>	Randa Abdel-Fattah	Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.	Fiction / Realistic LEXILE - 850
<i>I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You</i>	Ally Carter	As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission.	Fiction / Realistic LEXILE - 1000
<i>Life As We Knew It</i>	Susan Beth Pfeffer	Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.	Fiction / Science Fiction LEXILE - 770
<i>Legend</i>	Marie Lu	In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen- year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.	Fiction / Science Fiction LEXILE - 710
<i>Drums. Girls and Dangerous Pie</i>	Jordan Sonnenblick	When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.	Fiction / Realistic LEXILE - 940
<i>The Skin I'm In</i>	Sharon Flake	Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.	Fiction / Realistic LEXILE - 670
<i>TimeRiders</i>	Alex Scarrow	Rescued from imminent death, teens Maddy, Liam, and Sal join forces in 2001 Manhattan to correct changes in history made by other time travelers, using a "time bubble" surrounding the attack on the Twin Towers to hide their journeys.	Fiction / Science Fiction LEXILE - 820
<i>Lockdown</i>	Walter Dean Myers	Teenage Reese, serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.	Fiction / Realistic LEXILE - 730

<i>Lockdown: Escape from Furnace</i>	Alexander Gordon Smith	When fourteen-year-old Alex is framed for murder, he becomes an inmate in the Furnace Penitentiary, where brutal inmates and guards reign, boys who disappear in the middle of the night sometimes return weirdly altered, and escape might just be possible.	Fiction / Science Fiction LEXILE - 1010
<i>The Final Four</i>	Paul Volponi	Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.	Fiction / Sports LEXILE - 870
<i>Tankborn</i>	Karen Sandler	Kayla and Mishalla, two genetically engineered non-human slaves (GENs), fall in love with higher-status boys, discover deep secrets about the creation of GENs, and in the process find out what it means to be human.	Fiction / Science Fiction LEXILE - 790
<i>The Demon King</i>	Cinda Williams Chima	Relates the intertwining fates of former street gang leader Han Alister and headstrong Princess Raisa, as Han takes possession of an amulet that once belonged to an evil wizard and Raisa uncovers a conspiracy in the Grey Wolf Court.	Fiction / Fantasy LEXILE - 760
<i>Eon</i>	Alison Goodman	Sixteen-year-old Eon hopes to become an apprentice to one of the twelve energy dragons of good fortune and learn to be its main interpreter, but to do so will require much, including keeping secret that she is a girl.	Fiction / Fantasy LEXILE - 750
<i>So Hard to Say</i>	Alex Sanchez	Thirteen-year-old Xio, a Mexican American girl, and Frederick, who has just moved to town, quickly become close friends but when Xio starts thinking of Frederick as her boyfriend, he must confront his feelings of confusion and face the fear that he might be gay.	Fiction / Realistic LEXILE - 690