

St. Benedict Grade Eight Summer Reading List

READING JOURNAL

This year in Reading you will be keeping a journal for the 2009 – 2010 school year. You will start this exciting year long project over the summer.

- * Use a black and white marble composition notebook for your journal.
- * You will write three entries per book, for a minimum total of six pages. Write about 150 words per entry. This is a minimum effort.
- *You will be taking an exam on the required book, *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep, and therefore you do not have to do journal entries for that book.

*When you return to school in September, you will hand in this summer reading journal with the three entries for each of the two books (3 pages x 2 books = 6 pages) you read over the summer. This journal will be graded and will count toward the first quarter average.

Format:

- *At the top of each entry, write the title and the author of the literary work.
- *Underneath the title and the author, write the date you are writing the entry.
- *Then write three journal entries from the list below. One must be a standard response and the other entries are creative responses.
- *Once the standard response is complete, write the creative response entries.
- *Each entry in your journal must have your parent's signature.

Standard Response

Summarize what you read. Include basic literary information, such as setting(s), character(s), plot (conflict & resolution), point of view, theme(s), and anything else that would be beneficial to the reader to better understand what has happened.

Creative Response Entries

Here are a lot of ideas to help you write a creative response journal:

Character Reaction

I really like/dislike _____ (a character in the book you are reading) because . . .

Give several reasons supported with specific examples of what the character does or says.

Analyzing Reality

A part that seems really realistic/totally unbelievable in the book I'm reading is . . .

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Explain why it is realistic or totally believable by providing specific examples. Include the page number(s) of the part you are discussing.

Putting Yourself in a Character's Shoes

If I were _____ (character) at this point, I would . . .

Give specific actions you would take and provide sound reasoning for those actions.

Retelling a Scene

Pick a scene and retell the events from a different character's perspective . . .

Identify the scene, the character and how the scene is different in your retelling. Imagine you have entered the mind of that other character.

You can write the scene as if you are that character retelling the events. You may want to use dialogue.

Character Comparison

Compare/Contrast one of the characters with someone you really know. Use specific examples about appearance, actions, personality, likes/dislikes, vocabulary, etc. Support your examples with references from your novel (page number).

Alternative Ending

Write an alternative ending for the book you read. Try to maintain consistency with the author's style. You must actually write the ending and not simply describe it.

Meaningful Quotations

Quote 2-3 passages that you really connect with. Include the page number for the quote in parentheses. Explain what makes those quotations/passages so meaningful to you.

Advice Column

Describe one of the problems faced by a character and write advice for him/her. You may choose to be serious or humorous.

Use the letter format common to newspaper advice columns, where the person with the problem writes for advice and the adviser writes back. Often, the person seeking advice "disguises" his or her name with a descriptive name associated with the problem.

Searching for Similes and Metaphors

Find and write down 5 similes **and** 5 metaphors from your book. Label each as a simile or a metaphor (give the page number). Choose five of them and explain in detail why you choose them.

Character Sketch

Write a character sketch describing your favorite character. Tell what the character is like outside (age, gender, hair, etc.) and inside (personality). Pay more attention to the internal qualities of your character than to the external qualities. You may also draw a picture of this character if you wish. The drawing is in addition to the written sketch.

Revising Tone

Choose a passage from the book you are reading and rewrite it, changing words to change the tone. Identify the original tone and then select what type of tone you wish to use. For example, you could sound angry, sympathetic, humorous, etc. (Please identify which book the passage is from and the page number.)

Fortune Cookies

You are dining at a Chinese restaurant with 5 characters from the novel you read. On that particular night, the fortune cookies are amazingly appropriate. Tell what each fortune cookie said and why it was especially fitting to the character who received it. Don't forget to include yourself!

Transporting a Character

Lift a character out of the book you are reading and drop him or her down in our school. Is the character a student, teacher, custodian, secretary, nurse, principal, cafeteria employee, etc.? Don't change the character's personality—just show what might happen if he or she became one of us.

Which Character Is Coming to Dinner?

Invite one of the characters in your book to dinner, explaining why you chose that character above the others. Next, write a note to your mother telling her that you have invited someone to dinner. Describe the person to her; include a few dos and don'ts for her to follow so that your guest will feel at home.

Poetry Time

Decide on what the theme of your book is and then write a song or poem to communicate the novel's theme, including your personal thoughts on the topic. Your song or poem must have a title that fits the main idea.

June 2009 8th Grade Summer Reading List School Year 2009-2010

All 8th Graders are required to read *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep. An exam will be given during the first week of school. You do not need to write a journal entry for *Dragonwings*.

Choose two (2) other books from the list below to read and write about them in your journal over the summer.

Or Give Me Death (A novel of Patrick Henry's Family) by Ann Rinaldi

Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

Somewhere In the Darkness by Walter Dean Myers

Marley and Me by John Grogan

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech

Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Homecoming by Cynthia Voight

Mother, Please Don't Die by Lurlene McDaniel

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

The Tripods Attack by John McNichol

Green Angel by Alice Hoffman

Crispin the Cross of Lead by Avi