

SUMMER READING INFO & BOOK PICK UP!

Over the summer all rising 7th grade Advanced Language Arts students are required to read one book from the Spectrum Summer Reading List and complete an assignment as documentation. While the novels on the list are meant to be enjoyable, they are also intended to prepare students for the rigor and assignments associated with 7th grade Advanced Language Arts.

Book Titles

- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead
- *I Am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne

BHL has ordered a small number of each title available for student check-out over the summer. These titles will be available for pick up on the following dates:

SATURDAY – JUNE 5TH at Athens-Clarke Co. Library: 10am – 1pm

Come pick up a book and take part in a few activities to help you get started this summer: How to set up a reading response journal, active reading help, Twitter information, and a book selection guide.

MONDAY – JUNE 7TH at BHL: 10am – 1pm

We'll still have books for pick-up and the same helpful guides to get you started with your summer reading.

Come one day, come both! We'll make sure you leave with one of your summer reading books and some ideas on how to tackle this summer's assignment.

Already have your book? No problem! Still stop by, we'd be glad to help you get started with your reading response journal or creativity project ideas.

As always make sure to keep checking <http://bhlspectrum.wikispaces.com> for the latest summer reading info and email us with any questions.

Mr. Thompson

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Reading Assignment

Regardless of the book you read, there are 2 assignments you must complete.

- 1) Reading Response Journal
- 2) Creativity Project

All work needs to be of the highest quality. This will be the first piece of work your Advanced Language Arts teacher will see from you. Make sure your first impression is a great impression! **All work will be collected on the 2nd day of school and will count as a test grade.**

Attention Parents: This list represents a diversity of reading levels, interest areas, and subject matter. Please work closely with your child to make the appropriate selection.

Assignment 1: Reading Response Journal

Write 3-5 reading response journal entries while you are reading your novel. Entries should be written **while you are reading the novel** and not all at once. The journal will help you think more critically about the novel you are reading and develop your opinion about the work. **A reading response journal is not a summary of the plot**; instead it should focus on elements you find interesting or important.

Reading Response Requirements:

- Must be in paragraph format
- Each entry must be at least half a page in length
- Explore some literary aspect of the book you are reading
 - Point of view, character development, , the importance of setting, themes, tone, mood, author's purpose, an important quote/passage, etc.
- No plot summaries

Assignment 2: Creativity Project Assignment Choices

- **Compilation of Criticism**- After reading and responding, visit websites like Amazon.com, goodreads.com, etc. to see what other readers thought of the book. Print out three or four reviews that represent a range of perspectives and opinions. On the back of each review, write a mock half-page response to the critic's specific praises or complaints. (Responses should **not** be posted online).
- **Movie Poster including names of actors & actresses who would play main characters (for a book that doesn't have a film version yet)** – Movie posters need to be poster board size, fully decorated, neat, and creative. Include a written piece explaining the choices you made. Additionally, in your written piece explain what changes, if any, you'd make to the story and why.
- **Video or Audio Recording of scene or monologue** – Pick your favorite passage from the book and record yourself re-enacting it. Include a written piece explaining the significance of this passage.
- **Sculpture of an important object from the book** – Constructed object needs to be creative and detailed. Include a written piece explaining the importance of the object in the story.
- **Gravestone & Eulogy for a character** – Construct a gravestone for a character (they do not have to die in the book). With your gravestone, include a eulogy or obituary outlining the accomplishments of that character's life (make sure to include things that could have happened before and after the events in the book).
- **Story rewritten as a children's book with illustrations** – Make sure your children's book is neat, creative, and thorough (in other words make sure your children's book covers the major elements of the plot). Include a written piece explaining your choices.
- **Creatively organized Family/Friends/Enemies/Acquaintances Tree for a book with 10 or more characters** – Make your family tree as detailed as possible, including character traits of each person. Additionally, you are encouraged to speculate and add characters that are not mentioned in the story. The family tree should be poster board size. Include a written piece explaining your choices.
- **Tweet as you read**- If you have a Twitter.com account, keep your teachers (www.twitter.com/bhlspectrum) classmates up-to-date on your summer reading. Tweet by chapter, by section, or whenever you feel the need, but you should have at least 25 (but more is encouraged) tweets by the end of your reading. Although this is an exercise in writing concisely, please observe the conventions of written English (see <http://bhlspectrum.wikispaces.com> for more details).

Have a great summer! See you in August!!

-Mr. Thompson and Mrs. DeSignore
Spectrum Program Teachers