

8th Grade Summer Read

Let's Read!

Dear Scranton Middle School Families,

Next year's 8th graders will choose a Historical Fiction novel for their summer read. This will help launch the Historical Fiction unit studied in English, as well as the time period studied in American history classes! The story chosen must be from a time in American History ranging from Colonial America through the end of the 1800s (approximately 1600-1900). Students may choose any Historical Fiction novel they wish that fits within this time period.

The thinking work that is to accompany the summer read must come from the choices listed below. Students will be held accountable for turning in this work during the first few days of school. The goal of this summer read is to develop knowledge for a unit that will be explored during the next school year. Happy Reading!

SUMMER READ ASSIGNMENT:

CHOOSE FROM 3 OF THE TOPICS LISTED BELOW. As you read, use post-it notes or take notes on the evidence and examples you find for your topics. Your three topics need to have evidence produced with specific examples that come directly from the story.

CREATE A MIND MAP or SKETCHNOTES to show your thinking for the three topics. You may create your mind map on the computer or do it by hand, on copy/printer paper. Include the title of the book and author's name on your mind map/sketchnotes.

Topics to focus on while reading:

1. Symbolism—What objects represent bigger ideas or themes in your book?
2. Theme –What is the message of your book?
3. Figurative language -- Examples- simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole
 - a. Cite 3 or more examples from the text.
4. Story Elements – How story elements impact one another throughout the novel?
 - a. One example could be--How does the setting of the story impact and affect the characters or conflict?
5. Coming of Age – How do characters change and grow in the story?
6. Tone – What is the overall feeling you get when reading the story?
 - a. Is the novel told from a specific perspective? Who's telling the story and how do their ideas affect the way the story is told?
7. Social Issues- What are the common social issues? (ex: poverty, class inequality, gender inequality, racial discrimination).

Some topics to consider for your novel: Colonial period, Revolutionary War, pioneers/Westward expansion, slavery, Civil War, the West, the California or Alaska gold rush

Some recommended authors: Anne Rinaldi, Laurie Halse Anderson, Richard Peck, Avi, Michael Shaara, Gary Paulsen