

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Summer reading provides an opportunity to enhance your reading skills and enjoy books that you have selected. Your assignment is to **read two books** over the summer; choose from the list provided and complete **an Important Quotes worksheet for both books**, and **write ONE five-paragraph essay** based on one of the prompts listed on the back of this page. Choose something that you haven't read before.

### Important Quotes Activity:

For each book, you will **record 10 significant quotes** (see attached graphic organizers). Each entry should include a quote, the page number on which it is found, and a 2-3 sentence analysis of why the quote is significant. For example, the quote might capture a key moment within the plot, reveal the personality of a major character, or include well-crafted figurative language or important symbolism. Or the passage may inspire thought, draw an emotional connection, or have a personal connection to your own life. Whatever the reason, explain why the quote matters and/or your reason for selecting it. The quotations should be kept in the order they appear in the book.

**Be sure to include page numbers for all evidence that you collect.** Your evidence should be thoughtful and thorough, as you will present your information to the class at the beginning of the year. The should also be selected from across the entire book, not just the first few chapters.

### **Example:**

Page	Direct Quote	Significance
58	"Better to be hurt by the truth than comforted with a lie."	In this quote, Baba comments about the jealousy many Afghans feel when their country is not seen as a world power. The passage shows that the character Baba is a realist, and understands that people who allow themselves to be comforted by lies end up hurt and disillusioned.

*\*From The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini*

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### **Summer Reading Essay Prompts:**

Choose **one** of the following prompts. Write a well-constructed and cohesive five-paragraph essay, responding to the prompt and basing your answer on **ONE** of the books you read this summer. Identify the book and author in the first paragraph.

Your essay **must include** an introduction, body, and conclusion. Be sure to utilize specific examples from the book to support your thesis statement. **You must include at least three direct quotations from the book in your essay as part of your evidence**, citing the page number on which each was found. You may use the evidence you collected on your “Important Quotes” organizer as well as the book itself. **ESSAYS MUST BE TYPED.**

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**Prompt 1:** Often in works of literature, something positive can emerge from a difficult situation. Select one book from your summer reading assignment in which something positive emerges from a difficult situation. In a well-developed composition, describe the situation and explain how something positive emerges from it.

**Prompt 2:** In a work of literature, it is not unusual for a key character to stand up for something that he or she believes in. Select a character from your book of choice who stands up for what he or she believes in, and explain how the character’s actions relate to the book as a whole.

**Prompt 3:** Often in literature, a character is viewed as an outsider or a loner. In a well-developed essay, discuss such a character from a book you read this summer. Be sure to describe this character’s attitudes towards himself or herself, and how he or she deals with the isolation that comes with such a label.

**Prompt 4:** Setting is often integral to the plot. It may, for example, symbolize a larger idea or theme. Or a change in setting may signify a shift in a key character or in relationships between characters. Write an essay discussing the significance of the setting in your chosen book. How is the setting significant? What might it symbolize? How do changes in setting impact the overall meaning of the book?

**Prompt 5:** One type of conflict in literature is person vs. self, or internal conflict, in which a character must face his or her own fears, desires, and/or self-inflicted obstacles. In a well-developed essay, identify a character in your chosen book who faces such a conflict. What leads to its development and how does the character deal with it? How does the character resolve or overcome the conflict in the end, if at all?

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## 8th Grade Summer Reading Book List

The list below contains dozens of titles that are a mixture of all book genres - mystery, realistic, sports, fantasy, adventure, science fiction, non-fiction, and more. Choose something that you haven't read before. You can find summaries of these books on Barnes and Noble's or Amazon's websites. Remember you can also check out these titles at your local library instead of purchasing them.

\*Indicates that this book has a sequel or is the beginning of a series; Students can choose to read the sequel as their second book instead of another book on this list.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain  
*Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Chaldenko\*  
*The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* by Michael Scott\*  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll  
*An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* by Jim Murphy  
*Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery\*  
*The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* by Daniel James Brown  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson\*  
*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James Swanson  
*Cinder* by Marissa Meyer\*  
*City of Orphans* by Avi  
*Code Talkers* by Joseph Bruchac  
*The Dark Game: True Spy Stories from Invisible Ink to CIA Moles* by Paul B. Janeczko  
*Divergent* - Veronica Roth\*  
*Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card\*  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly\*  
*The False Prince: The Ascendance Trilogy, Book 1* by Jennifer A. Nielsen\*  
*Fast Break* by Mike Lupica  
*The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien\*  
*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen  
*Found: The Missing, Book 1* by Margaret Peterson Haddix\*  
*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick\*  
*Game Changer* by Margaret Peterson Haddix  
*The Giver* by Lois Lowry\*  
*A Girl Named Disaster* by Nancy Farmer  
*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman  
*The Grimm Legacy* by Polly Shulman  
*The Grimm Conclusion* by Adam Gidwitz  
*Heat* by Mike Lupica  
*Helen Keller: The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller  
*Hidden Figures: Young Reader's Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly  
*Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke\*

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*In a Glass Grimly* by Adam Gidwitz

*Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson

*Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata

*Knightley & Son* by Rohan Gavin\*

*Letters from Rifka* by Karen Hesse

*The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1* by Rick Riordan\*

*Lincoln's Grave Robbers* by Steve Sheinkin

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner\*

*The Mighty Miss Malone* by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli

*Miracle's Boys* by Jacqueline Woodson

*My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

*The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery* by Steve Sheinkin

*Okay For Now* by Gary D. Schmidt

*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

*Pay It Forward: Young Reader's Edition* by Catherine Ryan Hyde

*Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* by Rick Riordan

*The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Steve Sheinkin

*The President Has Been Shot!: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy* by James Swanson

*The Red Pyramid: The Kane Chronicles, Book 1* by Rick Riordan\*

*The River Between Us* by Richard Peck

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor\*

*Running Out of Time* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

*Summerlost* by Ally Condie

*The Sword of Summer: Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan\*

*The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi

*Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hillenbrand

*Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin

*Under the Blood-Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury

*The Upstairs Room* by Johanna Reiss

*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt

*Which Way to the Wild West?* by Steven Sheinkin

*The Wishing Spell: The Land of Stories, Book 1* by Chris Colfer\*

*Witness* by Karen Hesse

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle\*

*Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo* by Zlata Filipovic



