



SCBCS Summer Reading & Writing: Middle School

General Instructions: All books should be at least 150 pages and be first-time reads for the student.

1. Read a novel that has been made into a movie, and then watch the movie! Write a 5-paragraph essay to compare and contrast the movie and book versions.

The paragraphs should be as follows:

- a. Paragraph one: Introduction to your essay. Include a “hook,” background info, and a thesis statement.
- b. Paragraph two: Ways in which the movie and book are alike.
- c. Paragraph three: Ways in which the movie and book differ.
- d. Paragraph four: Overall, your opinion as to whether the differences affected the plot in a significant way or not, and why you feel that way.
- e. Paragraph five: Conclusion of your essay.

2. Read a non-fiction book and complete an activity choice below.

Non-fiction suggestions...

- a. *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)*, by Malala Yousafzai
- b. *No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits*, by Jordan Romero
- c. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, by James L. Swanson
- d. *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*, by Steve Sheinkin
- e. *Brown Girl Dreaming*, by Jacqueline Woodson
- f. *How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous*, by Georgia Bragg

3. Read any novel of your choice and complete an activity choice below.

Reading Activity Choices

It is strongly recommended that you do a first draft or plan and final draft to be sure your work is well done.

<p>Write a poem about a character, an event, the theme, etc. in the book. It can be any kind of poem. Be sure your poem is neatly written. **Kinds of poems—Free verse, rhyming, acrostic, haiku, cinquain, diamante, “I Am” poem, etc. (Google “kinds of poems” for samples, directions, or ideas.)**</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Non-fiction option only)</p> <p>Create a K-W-L chart before you read. Complete the “L” part with specific details after you read the book.</p>	<p>Create a comic strip for the book. Strip should have at least six boxes with words and pictures in each box.</p>
<p>Create trading cards for each character in your book. Illustrate the front of the card. Be sure to include character traits about each character on the back of the card such as their appearance, feelings, actions, flaws, and any specifics for that character.</p>	<p>Create a Power Point, iMovie, or Prezi about your book. You will need to email this to your teacher or provide it on a flash drive.</p>	<p>Make a tri-fold. Answer one of the following questions on each section of the tri-fold. Illustrate your tri-fold. Who were the main characters? What was the problem that had to be solved? How was the problem resolved? How did the characters change over time during the book? What was your favorite part of the book? What did you learn while reading this book?</p>
<p>Make a board game for the book. Be sure to include the important terms or events in the book, as well as, characters if there are any in the book.</p>	<p>Create a poster that advertises and excites other students to read the book.</p>	<p>Make an illustrated glossary of the terms from the book. Glossary should have at least 15-20 terms.</p>

4. Summer Writing Journal

Instructions: Write a journal entry at least once a week. Each entry should be at least one paragraph long (5-8 GOOD sentences). You should have a minimum of ten pieces of complete writing to bring to your teacher when school begins in August. (This does not mean write ten times in August). You may choose to use the topics below or choose topics of your own.

More information...

- a. Journal can be handwritten or typed. If typed, print it out and put it in a prong folder or presentation folder. Handwritten journals can be kept in composition or spiral notebook.

- b. Do not rush through these writing assignments. Each piece should be an example of quality work. Reread your work and then reread it again later. Make corrections as needed.
- c. Remember to start paragraphs with a “hook” or interesting introductory sentence, include 3-5 detail sentences and end the paragraph with a concluding sentence.
- d. Students know that sentences begin with capital letters and end with punctuation. Students also know that sentences fragments or sentences without a subject and/or predicate are not acceptable. Do not guess at how to spell words...look them up or use spell check!
- e. If you do any research, cite your book, newspaper, and/or internet sources. Also, write your findings in your own words. Do not plagiarize!

Writing topic suggestions...

- Many families go on a vacation when school is out. Write about your vacation. If you do not go on a vacation write about the vacation you would like for your family to take.
- Go for a nature walk. Record your plant and animal findings in paragraph form.
- Read a news article and write a summary of the article. Include who, what, when, where, why, and how (as applicable).
- June 14 is Flag Day. Research the origin of Flag Day to learn a little about the history of this holiday. Write a paragraph explaining the reason Flag Day is celebrated.
- June 19 is known as *Juneteenth*. This special day commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States in 1865. Write a speech about what freedom means to you.
- June 21 is the first day of summer. What is your favorite summer activity?
- Create a notebook of your favorite summer recipes.
- Write a movie review as though you are a movie critic.
- July 4 is Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the United States declared its independence from Britain. Every year people celebrate this holiday with fireworks. Research the history of fireworks. Write a paragraph or two describing what you discovered.
- July 6 the first picture postcard was made. Design a postcard that depicts one of your favorite places to visit. Write a note to a friend that describes the place you are visiting that is portrayed on your postcard. Remember to include a greeting and closing and addresses!
- July 9 is “National Sugar Cookie Day.” Write a descriptive paragraph that describes the ultimate sugar cookie you would like to make, decorate, and eat. Remember to include words that will appeal to your reader’s senses of taste, touch, smell, sight, and even hearing. Don’t forget to include the shape, colors and decorations. Sketch your amazingly delicious cookie.

- July 16, Apollo 11 lifted off for its voyage to the moon in 1969. Do you think we will ever live on the moon? Why or why not? Would you want to live there? What would the economic cost be for those who pursue this endeavor? Is this a wise use of our resources? Write a paragraph that supports reasons for or against space travel and exploration.
- July 17, Disneyland opened in 1955. When did Disney World open? Which park has more visitors? What is your favorite thing to do at Disney? What is on the horizon for each park?
- August 1, 1779, lawyer and poet, Francis Scott Key was born. After witnessing an attack during the War of 1812, Key wrote a poem that was later set to music and became known as, "The Star Spangled Banner." Write your own poem honoring an event in American history.
- August 6 is "Friendship Day." What makes a great friend? What characteristics does a friend have? What is a friend willing to do? Create a "want ad" that describes what you look for in a "Great Friend."
- August 9 in 1944 Smokey the Bear was "born." Research the story behind this safety minded character and write about the history of Smokey the bear.
- August 12 in 1981 IBM announced a new personal computer (PC) for home use. How do you think computers have helped our lives? How do you think computers have possibly harmed our lives?