



SCBCS Summer Reading & Writing: Rising 8th Grade

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

1. **Required reading: *Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli** **Families are responsible for acquiring a copy of this book. We have gently used copies of *Stargirl* available for purchase for \$4.00 from the school on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please contact Lisa Bobowicz (call or email at lbobowicz@scbcs.net) to purchase the book.
2. **Required reading: *Prisoner B-3087*, by Alan Gratz** **Families are responsible for acquiring a copy of this book.**
3. **Read any novel of your choice.**

FOR EACH BOOK YOU READ...

- Take notes as you read. This can be done on sticky notes, a piece of notebook paper, “bookmark,” etc. Be sure to write at least one thing for each chapter as a reference tool. For example: “The most important thing to remember from this chapter was...” You can also record words you are unfamiliar with (with page numbers) or your own thoughts, predictions, etc. The more notes you take, the easier it will be to review the book’s content.
- Complete a plot diagram. You can hand draw it onto a piece of paper, or you can print one from the internet and fill it out directly. If you do not know what the story elements are, look them up online.
- Bring your novel (if you own a physical copy), notes, and plot diagram to class on **Friday, August 10, 2018.**
- Students will take a test on ONE of the required books (student’s choice) as a test grade at the beginning of the school year.

4. Summer Writing Journal—turn in on the 1st day of school

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 any topics.

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!