



SCBCS 2019 Summer Reading & Writing: Rising 8th Grade

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 \$3.00 from the school on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please contact Lisa Bobowicz at lbobowicz@scbcs.net) to purchase the book.
2. **Required reading: *Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane** **Families are responsible for acquiring a copy of this book. We have gently used copies of *Red Badge of Courage* available for purchase for \$4.00 from the school on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please contact Lisa Bobowicz at lbobowicz@scbcs.net) to purchase the book.

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, info about characters, etc. The more notes you take, the easier it will be to review the book’s content in August.
- 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. Look up the story elements online to help you.
- Bring your novel, notes, and plot diagrams to class on **Monday August 19th**.

3. Summer Writing Journal—due on Wednesday, August 14th!

Instructions: Write a journal entry at least once a week. Each entry should be at least one paragraph long (5-8 GOOD, DETAILED sentences). You should have a **minimum of ten pieces** of complete writing. (This does not mean write ten times in August). You may choose any topic.

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!
- f. Make it fun! Write about things you love, activities you enjoy doing, things that matter to YOU.