



SCBCS 2020 Summer Reading & Writing: Rising 8th Grade

Families are responsible for acquiring their own books through book stores, Amazon, Kindle, etc.

1. *Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli
2. *Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls

FOR EACH BOOK YOU READ...

- Take notes as you read. This can be done on sticky notes, a piece of notebook paper, “bookmark,” journaling, 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, inferences, info about characters, etc.
- You may be asked to complete a project, take the AR test, etc., in August, so the more notes you take, the better off you will be.

3. **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, 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 a 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 sentence 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.