

Farquhar Middle School Summer Reading, 2009

Entering Sixth Graders

6

Why do we have summer reading?

Reading is a life-long skill that a person not only needs to succeed as a student and a worker but is also an essential skill in civic and personal activities. Perhaps even more importantly, however, reading opens the world to a person through various forms of literature. By reading, individuals have the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions, and ideas that may enhance their knowledge and development. Reading can also bring a lifetime of pleasure and mental acuity.

Research strongly suggests that reading, like most skills, improves with practice and decreases when we don't engage in it for even a short time. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare all students for success during school and after graduation, we continue in MCPS to expect all students to read during the summer.

Expectations

Book 1: Fiction

- Students should choose one book of fiction which they have not yet read. Librarians have many good suggestions of books that are appropriate for their reading and grade level. Students then complete the attached graphic organizer using details from the text.

Book 2: Self-selected Book

- Students should read a fiction or non-fiction book of their choice. The book chosen should be at least 100 pages long and appropriate for school. Students should choose a book about one topic rather than a book of short stories, world records, jokes, or other unrelated passages. Students should consider novels or biographies.

Due Date/Deadline: Third day of school

Due date and deadline are the same for this assessment. The graphic organizer will be assessed as a completion grade. The graphic organizer will serve as a resource for an in-class writing assignment which students will be required to complete. This writing assignment will be a formative assessment and will be part of the student's first quarter grade. Students who do not complete the summer reading assignment over the summer will need to do so during the first week of school.

Parents need to complete and sign the attached form to verify that they approved the student's choices and that the students have read the books and completed the organizer for one of the readings.

Each graphic organizer will be separately assessed.

Above Standard:

ALL elements on the assignment sheet are completed and include specific information and precise insights applicable to the required task. Work is legible and neatly presented; it is free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors that interfere with meaning.

Standard:

ALL elements on the assignment sheet are completed and include some information and some insights applicable to the required task. Work is legible and neatly presented; free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors that interfere with meaning.

Below Standard:

SOME elements on the assignment sheet are incomplete and do not meet the criteria for a complete assignment

STORY MAP for FICTION #1

Directions: Complete the following story map with details from the book.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Exposition: Describe the setting, main characters, and conflict at the beginning of the book.

Rising Action: Describe two major events from the middle of the story where events build suspense and lead to the climax.

Climax: Describe the scene in the story where the conflict is the strongest.

Falling Action: Describe two major events that occur after the climax.

Resolution: Describe how the story ends.
