

**Farquhar Middle School
Summer Reading Program 2009
For Students Entering Grade 8
(301)-924-3100**



Rationale

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.

Novel Assignment

Book 1 :Journey Story

- Students enrolled in eighth grade English classes are to read a book that involves a journey or an adventure. This text will tie in to the first unit of the school year.
- Students then complete “Story Map for Fiction #1-Journey or Adventure Story” graphic organizer using details from the text.

Book 2: Self-selected book

- The second text is self-selected. This book should be at least 150 pages. Students must choose a book about one topic rather than a book of short stories, world records, jokes, or other unrelated passages.
- Students then complete the “Summer Reading Book #2” graphic organizer using details from the text.

Due Date/Deadline:

Students are required to turn in two information sheets within the first three days of school. The assigned novel will be the source of class lessons within the first two weeks of school. Students will be required to complete activities and an assessment on the book's content. This will be counted as a formative assessment.

SUMMER READING GRAPHIC ORGANIZER RUBRIC

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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-Journey or Adventure Story

Directions: Read a novel that involves an adventure or journey and complete the following, using details from the novel.

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.
