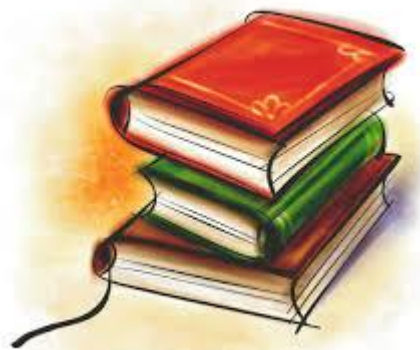


# Summer Reading Assignment

Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

The Sagemont School

2018-2019



## Assignment 1

Students are to choose either:

- *The Scorpio Races* – Maggie Steifvater

OR

- *The Light in the Forest* – Conrad Richter

→Read the book carefully and make sure you understand the plot, characters, setting, and theme.

→Be prepared to take an Accelerated Reader comprehension test upon your return to school.

You will take the AR test in class—no need to go to the library!

## Assignment 2

Students should select and read one of the following *unabridged* classic novels:

*Chains* – Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Tales of Beedle the Bard* – J. K. Rowling

*Treasure Island* – Robert Louis Stevenson

*Black Beauty* – Anna Sewell

Complete the attached Summer Reading Summary and bring it to class with you on the first day of school. Make sure you write using grammatically correct sentences and punctuation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Summary

The following sheet is to be used to help you record notes about the classic novel you have selected. Please complete these notes as you read. Review them prior to the start of the new school year so that you are ready for discussion and assessment of the books.

**Book title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_

**Setting** - Setting is the time and place of the action of a story. Customs, manners, clothing, scenery, weather, geography, buildings, rooms, furnishings, and methods of transportation are all part of setting.

List the different settings in the story:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Characters** –Complete the following character chart.

Character Name

Purpose\*

3 descriptive adjectives\*\*


\*What purpose does the character serve? Protagonist? Antagonist? Supporting?

\*\*Use creative adjectives!

**Plot**

Plot is the sequence of events in a story. It is the writer’s blueprint, or plan, for what happens, when, and to whom. The plot of a story begins with a basic situation. The writer introduces a conflict – a problem or struggle faced by the main character. The conflict leads to other events and builds to the climax, or high point of interest and intensity. At this point in the story, or shortly after, some event ends, or resolves, the conflict.

Basic situation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Conflict: (Problem that needs resolution) \_\_\_\_\_

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Event: \_\_\_\_\_

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Event: \_\_\_\_\_

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Event: \_\_\_\_\_

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Climax: (This is the section of the story of greatest intensity, a crisis point to which preceding events have been leading.)

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Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thematic Analysis**

Theme is the main idea of a work of literature. Often the theme is a message about human nature. Some literary works are written purely for entertainment. In these, the writer often does not try to convey an important message. However, most writing does attempt to communicate a theme. Sometimes the theme is stated directly. At other times, careful reading and thought may be necessary to uncover the theme. An example could be “greed can bring misery” or something as simple as “joys of nature can be even more pleasurable if they are shared.”

**Assignment:** Write a three paragraph essay in which you identify the theme of the story, explain it in detail, and cite textual evidence that most strongly supports your analysis of the theme. Please prepare your essay in MLA format and attach it to your Summary.

Include these elements:

- ✓ a thesis statement that describes your analysis
- ✓ evidence from the text that most strongly supports your analysis
- ✓ evidence from the text that explicitly supports the ideas you present
- ✓ language that is formal, precise, and follows the rules of standard English

**RUBRIC**

<b>Criteria for Success</b>	<b>not very</b>	<b>very</b>
How clear and effective is your thesis statement?	1 2 3 4 5 6	
How clearly have you presented and supported your analysis of the text?	1 2 3 4 5 6	
How well have you supported your analysis with explicit evidence from the text?	1 2 3 4 5 6	
How successful is your use of standard English? Is your paper in MLA format?	1 2 3 4 5 6	
How well have you succeeded in using a formal style and appropriate tone for your audience?	1 2 3 4 5 6	

## Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed the incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading Assignment for the 2018-2019 school year.

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_