

8th Grade Summer Reading and Journal Prompts

The summer reading work will be collected the first week of school.

Whatley Students Summer Reading: Whatley Students must read *Dragonwings*, by Laurence Yep. After reading *Dragonwings*, please look at the attached list of writing prompts and complete two writing prompts.

All other Students must read *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys. After reading *Between Shades of Gray*, please look at the attached list of writing prompts and complete three writing prompts.

Directions. Independent Reading Journal Prompts: Type your answers based on the given list of prompts. Use 12 font, Times New Roman, double space, and be sure to proofread for CUPS- capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling.

Be sure to include at least two direct quotations and page numbers for each answer to support your commentary and analysis. You want your responses to be specific and detailed.

Be sure to include the question at the beginning of your response.

The answer for each question should be approximately 3/4 to 1 typed page. This will be one of your first grades, so please do your best work.

These are jumping off points or points of entry into your own discussion of the text. We will begin the year with literary circles and a discussion of *Between Shades of Grey* and for Whatley students *Holes*.

Journal Prompts:

1. How does the main character change and grow over the course of the text?
2. What is the author's purpose? What does he/she hope to accomplish? Choose at least two passages from the text that clearly demonstrate said purpose.
3. What is one theme of the book? Cite specific examples of how that theme is developed.
4. Describe the main character's personality traits by using quotes from the character, what other characters say about them, or quotes about their actions.
5. Explain what the conflict is that the main character faces. How is the conflict resolved?
6. Where does the story take place? Describe what the setting is like. How does the setting impact the plot of the story?
7. Select a relatively important event in the book and describe why it was a turning point in the character's life? What was it that the character decided or learned to do?
8. List the characters in the story you like best and describe qualities which you admire. Tell what and why you respect the individuals.