

## **Incoming 8th Grade Summer 2024 Reading**

Dear Students,

In order to develop your critical thinking skills, comprehension, and analytical skills in literature and writing, you will complete the following assignments.

The following is required for the summer of 2024:

### **Incoming 8th Grade:**

**1. IXL- IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Language arts 8th grade.** Go to Google Classroom. Click on the link for IXL. There are 20 skills that need to be completed. Please complete all 20 skills throughout the summer. **This is due by August 28th at 3:00 pm.**

#### **Google Classroom Information:**

*ELA Summer Work: Barrett 2024*

*Google Classroom Code: nf4hxrh*

**\*All students must complete the Summer Boost IXL Plan.**

**2. Whatley Students Summer Reading:** Whatley Students must read The Giver by Lois Lowry.

After reading The Giver, please look at the attached list of writing prompts and complete two writing prompts. Please turn in completed assignments (2 writing prompts) to Google Classroom by August 28th at 3:00 pm. **Each response should be 250-500 words.**

**3. ALL (Except Whatley Students – see Whatley Summer Reading above) 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 two writing prompts. Please turn in completed assignments (2 writing prompts) to Google Classroom by August 28th at 3:00 pm. **Each response should be 250-500 words.**

**Directions. Independent Reading Journal Prompts:** Type 250-500 words based on the given list of prompts. Be sure to include direct quotations and page numbers to support your commentary and analysis. You want your responses to be specific and detailed. These are jumping off points or points of entry into your own discussion of the text. Your journal should act as a written conversation between you and the book. Your journals must address the entire work. You must complete 2 journal entries/writing prompts for the novel, Between Shades of Gray. If you are in the Whatley program, you will read The Giver and complete 2 writing prompts. Be sure to include the question at the beginning of your response. Each response should be 250-500 words in length.

**Formatting:**

- 12 point font
- Times New Roman
- Double Spaced
- Typed only

1. Journal - choose 3 quotes from the section that you read. Copy the quote in one column. Write your analysis of your selections in the other. What are your thoughts, comments, ideas, and understandings about the significance of the chosen parts of the text?
2. What is the writer's purpose? What does he/she hope to accomplish? Choose at least two passages from the text that clearly demonstrate said purpose.
3. What claims does the writer make? How does he/she support them? Do you ultimately find him/her convincing? What is the author's primary method of persuading his/her audience?
4. What questions does this book raise for you? What issues are addressed or ignored in the text?
5. What connections can you make from the book to movies, news events, other texts, your own life, etc.?
6. If your book has a main character, does he/she change over the course of the text? If so, why and how?
7. Write about something that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses or aggravates you.
8. Choose a passage from the text that you think is just outstanding writing. Include the passage and articulate why you find this selection so powerful.
9. Did this book make you laugh? Cry? Cringe? Smile? Cheer? Explain.
10. What is the most important word in the book? The most important passage? The most important event or feeling? Explain.
11. What parts of the book seem most believable or unbelievable? Why?

12. Do any of the characters remind you of friends, family members, or classmates? Explain.

13. What would you and your favorite character talk about in your conversation? Begin the conversation.

14. Do you think the title fits the book? Why or why not?

15. What was the author saying about life and living through this book? In other words, what is the theme of the book? Cite specific examples of how that theme is developed.

16. If I was the author, I'd change....

17. Write a poem: A. From a character's viewpoint B. About the setting C. About a character D. About the theme of the book

18. Write a eulogy ( a speech honoring someone after death) for one of the characters.

19. If this book would become a movie, choose 5 main scenes and why you chose them.

20. If this book were to become a movie, who would you cast to play the main characters. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.

21. This book is controversial because.....

22. This story helps me understand the problem of...better because.....

23. In the sequel to this book, the following should happen.....

24. Give 3 reasons why this book should be taught to a whole class. Support each reason with ample evidence from the book.

25. If the book were set 50 years in the future or the past, how would the conflict change?

26. Discuss how...(character) shows his/her personality through the dialogue in the story.

27. Discuss how.....(character) shows his/her personality by the actions he/she takes.
28. Discuss how.....(character) shows his/her personality by what other characters say or do toward this character.
29. Who is the narrator in the story and why do you think the author chose this narrator?
30. What particular style does the author use in her/his writing? Do you like or dislike it? Why?
31. What was the main problem in the story? Explain.
32. Describe a conflict and identify it as either internal or external. Tell why you chose that label.
33. Discuss a particular event in the book that used foreshadowing or flashbacks.
34. How did the author leave the reader? Was the ending satisfying? Explain.
35. Did you like the way the author ended the story? Make up a new ending that could still fit with the previous events in the plot.
36. Where does the story take place? Tell what the place is like. If the story took place somewhere else or in a different time, how would it be changed?
37. Tell about your reaction to a particularly interesting passage where the author creates an image of the setting.
38. Describe the personality of a particular character. Include examples from the story that support your description.
39. Do any of the characters change during the story? If so, how are they different? What changed them? Did it seem believable?
40. How did the main character change from the beginning to the end of the story?
41. 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?

42. Pick a paragraph or a page which describes the way another character treats the main character. Would you treat the person the same way? Find an incident in your own life which is similar and explain why you treated someone the way you did. Have you changed from that experience? How would you treat that person now?

43. Often main characters will grow in confidence and learn how to accept themselves in some new way. Cite an example of how the protagonist found a source of strength. Describe how you felt as the reader when this happened.

44. List the characters in the story and describe qualities which you admire. Tell what and why you respect the individuals. Point out classmates who possess the traits you admire.

45. Do any of the characters do things you feel are wrong? Explain.

46. Some characters play small but important roles in the story. Name such a character. Why is this character necessary for the story?

47. Would you like to be anyone in the story? Who? Why?