



Mandatory Summer Reading for 8th Grade IB

Part of the requirements for the IB Program is to complete Summer Reading. Choose ONE of the novels listed below to read for this summer. Complete a dialectical journal (described below). On the first Friday school resumes in August, you will turn in your journal, which is a test grade. Please email me during the summer if you have questions: Greene.Charlene.R@muscogee.k12.ga.us

Instructions for Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is another word for a double-entry or two-sided journal.

1. Use a Composition Notebook (preferably MEAD)
2. Write your first and last name, title of book, and author's name on the first page of the journal. *You may decorate for extra points.
3. Draw a line vertically down the middle of a page
4. **On the left-hand side, write down particular words, passages, lines, quotes – anything from the text that you find interesting from the novel.** These may be passages you question, find beautiful or distressing, wonder about, or even relate to your own life experiences. Write these citations down along with their exact page numbers. Longer passages need only be referred to by the first several and last few words with an ellipsis . . . in between.
5. **On the right side of the page, react to each passage.** Your response may be an emotional or intellectual reaction, a question or hypothesis, a connection to something else you've read or experienced, a comment on style, or any type of personal interaction with the text. Try to grow beyond purely personal, emotional reactions in order to discover author's voice and meaning in the text. If you note a citation every few pages of the story, you're probably on track for length.
6. Complete @ least 15 pages with @ least 4 entries per page. A good rule of thumb is to include a comment from each chapter of your novel. Keep in mind: YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ENTIRE NOVEL.
7. **EACH PAGE MUST BE FILLED. DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK OF YOUR PAGES.**
8. *You are permitted to doodle, add color, highlight, or add pictures to engage in the text.

Select ONE novel to read:

High Interest Fiction:

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

A teen gang in rural Oklahoma, the Greasers are perpetually at odds with the Socials, a rival group. When Greasers, Ponyboy and Johnny, get into a brawl that ends in the death of a Social member, the boys are forced to go into hiding. Soon Ponyboy and Johnny, along with the intense Dallas and their other Greaser buddies, must contend with the consequences of their violent lives. While some Greasers try to achieve redemption, others meet tragic ends.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Thomas wakes up in a metal box, but he doesn't remember who he is. He can only remember his name. Then, doors open above him and reveal that he's on some kind of farm surrounded by walls. The place is called the Glade. Outside the Glade are monsters known as Grievers that live in a massive Maze outside of it. Every month another boy arrives at the farm to live with Thomas and other boys there. Supplies for them come through an elevator every week from above ground level, where they're delivered by people who don't know what lies below ground level or even if anyone lives down there at all.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Ender's Game is a thrilling sci-fi novel that follows Ender Wiggin, a young genius recruited by the military to save Earth from an impending alien invasion. Through intense training and strategic battles in a high-stakes, immersive environment, Ender must outsmart his opponents and confront his own moral dilemmas. With its gripping plot, complex characters, and thought-provoking themes, "Ender's Game" captivates readers and challenges them to think deeply about leadership, humanity, and survival.



Realistic Fiction:

Monster by Walter Dean Meyers

This New York Times bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve’s own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. *Monster* is a multi-award-winning, coming-of-age story that was the first ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, and ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist.

Classical Fiction:

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

This novel explores themes of survival, nature, and the call to one’s primal instincts. It’s an engaging story that can prompt discussions about humanity and the natural world.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

This novel, with its wit and critique of societal norms, introduces students to themes of class, marriage, and individuality. It’s an excellent way to discuss character development and social commentary.

Historical Fiction:

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

The inspiring account of the African American female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations were crucial to the success of the early space missions.

Non-Fiction:

Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang

Red Scarf Girl is a historical memoir written by Ji-li Jiang about her experiences during the Cultural Revolution of China, with a foreword by David Henry Hwang. Ji-li Jiang was very important in her classroom and was respected until 1966 when the Cultural Revolution started.

Award Winning Fiction:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. **EXTRA CREDIT Novel – Since this novel is more difficult and longer, you have the option to receive extra credit if you choose *The Book Thief*.**

Dialectical Journal Example:

Dialectical Journal for <i>The Giver</i>		A Sample
Pg.	Quotations	My Reactions/Comments/Questions
1	Jonas was beginning to be frightened	I wonder why Jonas was scared?
2	Leave your bicycles where they are	This place has strange rules!
3	Jonas was careful about language.	This is an interesting comment. I wonder why Jonas has to be careful about what he says? Does this comment on the community?
4	Asher: I apologize for inconveniencing my learning community.	This may be foreshadowing. Asher has a different personality than Jonas. He appears more playful and not as careful as Jonas is about rules.
5	Apprehensive, Jonas decided. That’s what I am.	Why is Jonas feeling this way?