

ADVANCED 8TH GRADE ELA | SUMMER READING 2026

Mrs. Greene | Richards Middle School

Greene.Charlene.R@muscogee.k12.ga.us

WELCOME TO ADVANCED ELA

Welcome to Advanced 8th Grade English Language Arts! This course is designed for students who are ready to think critically, read closely, participate in meaningful discussions, and analyze literature on a deeper level. This summer assignment is designed to help students prepare for the expectations of Advanced ELA through close reading, annotation, and literary analysis.

1. SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS (read all 4)

Students must carefully read all four short stories. It is *highly* encouraged to annotate all four stories listed below:

[Examination Day](#) by Henry Slesar

[Button, Button](#) by Richard Matheson

[A Sound of Thunder](#) by Ray Bradbury

[The Hitchhiker](#) by Lucille Fletcher

Annotations demonstrate active reading and thinking. Students may annotate important quotations, symbolism, irony, suspense, conflict, characterization, theme development, figurative language, predictions, questions, or personal reactions throughout the stories.

One of the biggest questions students tend to ask about annotations is, "How much should I annotate?" Believe it or not, there is *no* magical number. The answer is simply this: include as many annotations that help you to fully understand each story on a deeper level.

[HOW TO ANNOTATE SHORT STORIES RESOURCE PAGE](#)

2. ANALYTICAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (choose 2 stories to answer)

Students will complete the analytical response questions for ANY TWO stories of the required reading. Each story contains fifteen analytical questions focused on literary analysis, inference, quotation analysis, and textual evidence. Once again, I *highly recommend* reviewing each set of questions for all four short stories. **Each set of questions is worth 50 points for a total of 100 points.**

All responses must be handwritten, written in complete sentences, and supported with specific textual evidence from the story. Direct quotations should be included when appropriate. Responses should demonstrate close reading, critical thinking, and thoughtful literary analysis.

[ANALYTICAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS](#)

3. READING ASSESSMENT

Students will complete a reading assessment during the SECOND WEEK of school as evidence of their reading. The assessment will cover and will include questions from ALL FOUR stories. **The Reading Assessment will be worth 200 points.**

Topics on the assessment may include plot, characterization, conflict, irony, symbolism, suspense, inference, theme, literary devices, figurative language, and quotation analysis.

[LITERARY TERMS & ELEMENTS OF FICTION RESOURCE PAGE](#)

4. DUE DATES

1. Analytical Response Questions (over 2 stories) due the 1st Friday we return from summer break. 100 pts.
2. Reading assessment (covering all 4 stories) will be given during the second week of school. 200 pts.

FINAL ADVICE

Read carefully, annotate while reading, and use strong textual evidence in your responses. Come prepared to discuss and analyze literature at an advanced level.

Welcome to Advanced 8th Grade ELA!