

8th Grade Summer Reading

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. —Joseph Addison

Incoming 8th Graders should read the following book and complete the summer reading assignment. This will prepare them for class activities at the beginning of the school year.



Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Activities to complete:

1. Read and annotate the novel. You should underline or highlight key information and make small notes in the margins of the book. Think about important ideas, words, and actions in the story, ask questions, and seek out answers when you don't understand something (write question marks next to things you have questions about).
2. Complete the Summer Reading Fiction Organizer located below.
3. Write a paragraph to answer 2 of the following questions:
 - a. Explain the importance of the setting in *Lord of the Flies*. Could this story have been set in a different time and place and still have the same effect?
 - b. Compare and contrast Ralph and Jack.
 - c. What is the symbolic importance of the pig's head? Explain.
 - d. What is the symbolic importance of each of the following: Piggy's glasses, the conch, and the fire?
 - e. Which characters in the book die? Who is responsible for each of their deaths? Explain.

For Parents:

If you would like to help your children enjoy this book even more, consider the following suggestions:

- Have your child choose interesting passages to read to the rest of the family.
- Read portions of the book with your child.

If your child is having trouble understanding *Lord of the Flies*, consider having him or her read it while listening to an audio version of the book.

Additional books your child may enjoy reading this summer:

- *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metaxas
- *The Father Brown Mysteries* by G.K. Chesterton
- *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien

SUMMER READING ORGANIZER (FICTION)

Student Name: _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

List and briefly describe the important characters:

What is the story's setting (the time period and place)?

Briefly describe major events in the story (between 5 and 10):

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Event:

Describe at least 3 main conflicts in the book:

_____ vs. _____ is evident when:

_____ vs. _____ is evident when:

_____ vs. _____ is evident when:

The Conclusion or Resolution - Are the conflicts resolved? Explain:

List 3 or 4 major themes or life lessons (virtues) from the story:

Describe your personal reactions and questions you have as a result of reading the book (describe at least 5):

Book Rating - Circle the number of stars you give this book (five being the highest) and describe the reason for your rating in the textbox below.

