

## **Grade 8 Summer Assignment**

### **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy**

Dear 8th grade students:

First, I hope everyone enjoys their summer. It is also a great time to read for pure enjoyment and at the same time, continue to gain knowledge.

You are required to read three to four books from the list below. Your assignment is included in this packet. These books will count toward your New York State book reading requirement.(20 books for the 2020-2021 school year)

#### **Fiction Book Choices**

*Monster, Walter Dean Myers*

*When Zachary Beaver Came to Town, Kimberly Willis Holt*

*Hoot, Carl Hiaasen*

*Gathering Blue, Lois Lowry (2nd book of The Giver series)*

*Messenger, Lois Lowry(3rd book of The Giver Series)*

*Soldier Boys, Dean Hughes*

*SeaBiscuit, Laura Hillenbrand*

*Among the Betrayed, Margaret Peterson Haddix*

*Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury (Science Fiction)*

*Stranger, Rachel Maniya Brown(Science Fiction)*

*Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card(Science Fiction)*

*Jade Green, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor*

*The Night Tourist, Katherine Marsh*

*The Night Diary, Veera Hiranandi(Historical Fiction)*

#### **Nonfiction Book Choices:**

*Night, Elie Wiesel*

*Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow, Susan Campbell Bartoletti*

*Bomb: The Race to Build-- and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon, Steve Sheinkin*

*In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors, Doug Stanton*

*Nelson Mandela, Kadir Nelson*

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer, James Swanson*

*Chasing King's Killer, James Swanson*

*Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race, Margot Shetterly*

Projects: Follow the guidelines below.

**1. Book Review- After reading one of the books from our list, write a book review using the format below:**

*A book review is a descriptive and critical account of a book. It provides a summary and rates the value the book has for potential readers.*

**Format:**

**Paragraph 1: Introduction:** include the setting and introduce the main characters.

**Paragraph 2-3:** Give a brief summary of what happens up until the high point of the story (do not give away the ending).

**Paragraph 4:** Write your opinion of the book. Give examples. What do you like or dislike about the book? Was it too easy to read or too hard? Was it predictable? Did you like the ending?

**Paragraph 5: Recommendation:** would you recommend the book to another student?

Explain your reasons why or why not?

Rate the book from 1 to 5 stars.

**2. Compare/Contrast two novels as follows:**

**\*\*\*Soldier Boys & Hitler Youth:** This pair of books are both about WWII in Europe. One is fiction; one, nonfiction.

- A. Create a Venn Diagram showing the similarities & differences shown about that time period.
- B. Write an essay in which you evaluate both books. Which book gave you a better understanding and/or feel for that period in history? Why? In citing your opinion, you must include details from each book. Be sure to include what you thought of each book.

**OR**

**\*\*\*Hitler Youth & Bomb-Race to Steal...** Both of these are nonfiction WWII books.

- a. Examine the format of each book. Create a T-chart citing their differences.
- b. Write a four-paragraph essay as follows: introduction: highlights of **Hitler Youth**; highlights of **Bomb-Race Steal**. your last paragraph should explain which book

you either enjoyed more or found more informative and worthwhile. Highlights should include information you found interesting.

**OR**

\*\*\* ***Jade Green & The Night Tourist...*** Both of these novels involve ghosts.

Discuss how these novels use this motif differently.

- a. Complete a Venn diagram stating their differences & similarities.
- b. Write 4 journal entries from the point of view of each ghost respectively (total: 8 entries).
- c. Evaluate each story. Which one did you like better? Why?

### **3. Illustrated Timeline:(Complete A and B)**

*A. Create an illustrated timeline showing the most important events from the book. Choose at least 10 events in the novel. Write a description of each event and draw and color an illustration for each event. The events must be in the order in which they occurred.*

*B. Review: Provide a well written review of the novel. It should be at least 5 paragraphs. Did it work for you? Did the author keep you interested? Do you enjoy the ending? Would you recommend this book to a peer?*