

Middle School Summer Reading

6th Grade

Fiction-The Skin I'm In

In Chapter 5, Miss Saunders asks the class to pretend they're teenagers living in the seventeenth century and to write a diary chronicling their experiences. She wants her students to know what it feels like to live in somebody else's skin and to see the world through somebody else's eyes.

Interview someone who lives in a "different skin" than you do. This may be someone of a different race, ethnicity, gender, age group, religion, someone who is disabled, etc. Write a report that highlights the ways in which the perspectives and experiences of their interview subject are different from your own. Do you both see the world differently? Do you feel the same way about life? The report should be a minimum of one page. Please include your notes from the interview on a separate piece of paper.

Non-Fiction-Chicken Soup for the Pre-Teen Soul

Pick one of the stories from the book that you could relate to. Write your own one page story relating to the piece you chose.

7th Grade-

Fiction-Lord of the Flies

Write an essay that is at least one full typed page on the following topics:

1. Of all the characters, it is Piggy who most often has useful ideas and sees the correct way for the boys to organize themselves. Yet the other boys rarely listen to him and frequently abuse him. Why do you think this is the case? Make sure you give specific examples from the book.
2. The sow's head and the conch shell each wield a certain kind of power over the boys. In what ways do these objects' powers differ? In what way is *Lord of the Flies* a novel about power? About the power of symbols? About the power of a person to use symbols to control a group?

Non-Fiction- Of Beetles and Angles

Write a one page typed essay that explains what **beetles** represent in the book. Then give several examples of **beetles** from the book. Next, describe **beetles** from your own life.

8th Grade

Fiction - The Outsiders (Ms. Wapner's Class)

Write a one page typed essay explaining why you believe at least 3 different Greasers could be considered heroes. Include your own definition of hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each boy, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples from the novel.

Of Mice and Men (Ms. Ehling's Class)

In the book *Of Mice and Men*, many of the characters talk about their dreams. Write a minimum of a one page typed essay explaining the dreams of the characters and what happened to them. Include in your essay your own dreams and what you will need to do to achieve them. This essay will be a springboard to help you write your high school essay that will be due at the end of October.

Non-Fiction - Bad-Boy: A Memoir (Both Classes)

After Reading *Bad Boy: A Memoir*, write a one page typed essay on ONE of the following topics:

1. Compare and contrast Walter's friendship with Eric and Frank.
2. How are books friends to Walter throughout the memoir?
3. Was Walter Dean Myers a "bad boy"? Explain.