

## Middle School Required Summer Reading & Projects

Rising Middle School students are required to read 2 books and complete a project for each before the start of the school year. Please read below for specific requirements regarding the books and projects.

*\*Please bring both books to class during the first week of school.*

*\*Both projects are due the first week of school.*

### Fiction Book

The following books are required reading for the assigned grade-level. Each of these texts will connect to topics, themes, and/or authors that we study throughout the coming school year(s).

Rising 6<sup>th</sup>: *A Single Shard* - by Linda Sue Park

Rising 7<sup>th</sup>: *Elijah of Buxton* - by Christopher Paul Curtis

Rising 8<sup>th</sup>: *The Devil's Arithmetic* - by Jane Yolen

### Fiction Project

For the FICTION book, complete any five of the assignments below. Each completed assignment must be at least one page in length. Each assignment should be typed in MLA format. Proofread for punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors. Staple your 5 assignments together and turn them in during the first week of school. Each assignment is worth 10 points for a total of 50 points for your Fiction Project.

- Summarize the book in poem form with a rhyme scheme (minimum 20 lines).
- Discuss *in depth* the relevance of the title.
- Write an *in depth* letter to the author. Include questions and thoughts about the book.
- Use an additional source, and write a report on a significant issue from the book.
- Write a one-page radio advertisement persuading the public to read the book.
- Research and write a report on the author. Please cite your sources.
- Pretend you're interviewing a person from the book. Write your interview in question and answer format.
- Discuss cause-and-effect relationships that you found in the book.
- Write an editorial based on a controversial issue in the book. You may include a personal opinion on the subject.
- Design a timeline for a minimum of 10 events in the book.
- Write an *in-depth* letter to one of the characters in the book.
- As a literary agent, write a letter to a publishing company persuading them to publish this book.
- Create a 10-word glossary of unfamiliar words and phrases. Include definition, part of speech, a few synonyms, a few antonyms, and the sentence used in the book with a page number.
- Choose your favorite passage from the book. Cite it, and discuss what you found appealing about it. Why is it significant?
- Write a front-page news story about one of the scenes in the book.

- Write your own test - a combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay. Provide a one-page answer key.
- Write an alternate ending to the book. Hypothesize about what could happen if things were different.

### Nonfiction Book

All Middle School students are required to read a nonfiction book which relates to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) topic. Selections may include but are not limited to books about earth science, life science, physical science, coding, robotics, engineering, and mathematics. It could be a book about a specific individual, an interesting discovery, or advancements in a particular STEM area. Your book may have illustrations, but your focus will be on the words. You should find a book that peaks your interest as it will be used for an upcoming project during the first few weeks of school. Your selection needs to be appropriate for your grade level and reading level. Please consult your parent/guardian when choosing a book.

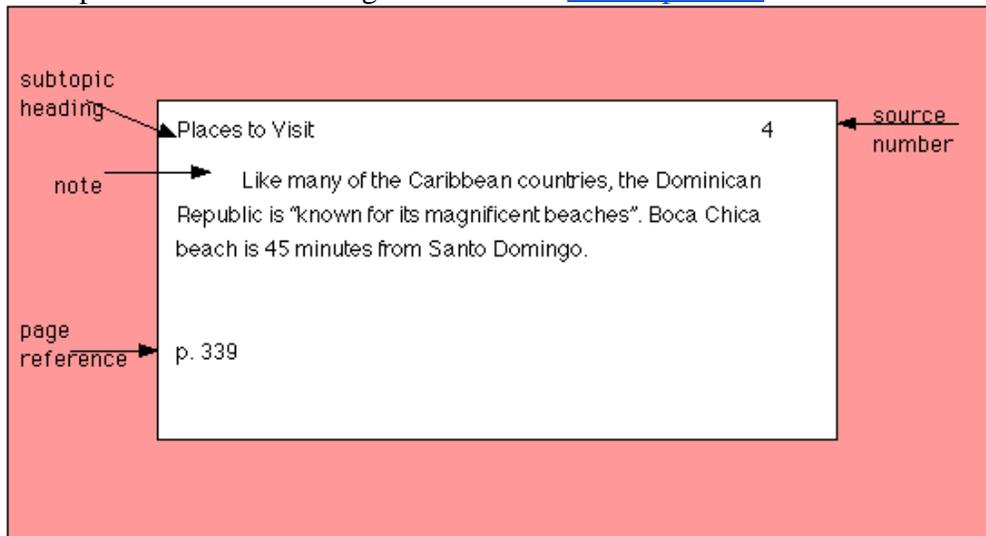
### Nonfiction Project

As you read your nonfiction book, you will create note cards of your findings. These note cards will be used for your first book project when we return to school. You must create a minimum of 10 note cards. Clip your note cards together and turn them in during the first week of school. Each note card is worth 5 points for a total of 50 points for your Nonfiction Project.

Each note card should have the following:

- student name on the back
- subtopic heading
- note and/or quote from the book
- page number

Example of how to create a good note card. [More tips here!](#)



### Resources

[EasyBib](#) has an online MLA format guide and citation generator. You can create a free account or upgrade to a premium.

Common Sense Media publishes a list of [Best Nonfiction Books for Kids](#).

The [Annual People's Choice Awards](#) were established to give readers an opportunity to share their enthusiasm for favorite works by Virginia authors. There is a fiction and nonfiction list.

[YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction](#) honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18.)

Good Reads has a list of [Popular Middle School Nonfiction Books](#).

[Linda Sue Park](#) and [Jane Yolen](#) have author websites. [Christopher Paul Curtis](#), while not having an official website, does have biographical information listed on Wikipedia.