

## **Required Reading for Middle School Students**

### **THE BOOKS**

Rising Middle School students are required to read 2 books before the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The first book is a designated fiction novel; the second is a non-fiction title that the student can choose based on his or her interests and reading level. Please keep in mind that not every book is appropriate for every reader. Parents will need to guide their children in making an appropriate choice for summer reading. The following are the required fiction novels which need to be purchased by parents and brought to school on the first day.

Rising 6<sup>th</sup>: *Dragonwings* - by Laurence Yep

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

Rising 8<sup>th</sup>: *Nothing but the Truth* - by Avi

### **THE ASSIGNMENT**

#### **20 Ways of Looking at the Book**

For each of the two books, complete any five of the assignments below. Each completed assignment must be at least one page in length. Staple your 5 assignments together into 2 packets. Each assignment is worth 10 points for a total of 50 points for your fiction title and 50 points for your nonfiction title. Please include complete sentences, cursive handwriting, and proofread for grammar and spelling errors.

1. Summarize the book in poem form with rhyme (minimum 20 lines).
2. Discuss in depth the relevance of the title.
3. Write a letter to the author.
4. Use an additional source, and write a report on a significant issue from the book.
5. Write a one-minute radio advertisement persuading the public to read this book.
6. Research and write a report on the author.
7. Q & A - Pretend you're interviewing a person from the book. Write your interview in question and answer format.
8. Compare and contrast the book with another book that you have recently read.
9. Discuss cause-and-effect relationships that you found in the book.
10. Write an editorial based on a controversial issue in the book.

11. Design a time-line for a minimum of 10 events in the book.
12. Write a letter to one of the characters in the book.
13. As a literary agent, write a letter to a publishing company persuading them to publish this book.
14. Create a 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.
15. Choose your favorite passage from the book. Copy it, and discuss what you found appealing about it. Why is it significant?
16. Top 10 List: List ten things that you learned from reading this book.
17. You're the reporter. Write a front-page news story, or report live from the scene, about one of the scenes in the book.
18. Write your own test - a combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay. Provide a one-page answer key.
19. Journal as you go - As you are reading the book, keep a two-sided reading journal. The left side should have quotes from the book with page numbers. The right side should have your questions, thoughts, observations, revelations, etc.
20. Write an alternate ending to the book. Hypothesize about what could happen if things were different.

**Web Resources:**

**For Returning Students: Please complete your suggested learning goals for Math**

<https://www.ixl.com/>

Please use your school log in information and password

**For All Students:**

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/>

Work for all subjects and all grade levels. Interactive activities and games.

<https://www.brainpop.com/>

Short video clips for all subjects and all grades.

<https://www.readworks.org/>

Offers leveled passages based or grade or Lexile levels.

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Early literacy support

<http://www.abcyd.com/>

Educational games all subjects all grade levels

<https://www.mathplayground.com/>

Educational games and activities all math all grades

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/christ-our-life/christ-our-life-2016/parents-and-students/grades-1-8/grades>

Religion review for grades 1-8