

## 8TH GRADE

Dear **INCOMING 8th grade students & parents,**

Students entering grade eight at Chocksett Middle School in September will be required to read **AT LEAST one** book over the summer. Below is a list of appropriate authors for students. They are only suggested authors, as I would like students to read books and genres that they enjoy. In addition, students must complete the attached assignment and bring it with them on the first day of school. Enjoy reading this summer! I look forward to meeting you in the fall. ~Mrs. Rossi

### **Suggested Authors:**

Laurie Hale Anderson	Madeleine L'Engle
Jay Asher	C.S. Lewis
Paolo Bacigalupi	Lois Lowry
Cassandra Clare	Marie Lu
Suzanne Collins	Mike Lupica
Ally Condie	Marissa Meyer
Robert Cormier	Walter Dean Myers
James Dashner	George Orwell
Sarah Dessen	Christopher Paolini
John Flannagan	Philip Pullman
Kami Garcia	Ransom Riggs
John Green	Ann Rinaldi
Dan Gutman	Rick Riordan
S.E. Hinton	Veronica Roth
Anthony Horowitz	Paul Zindel
Kiera Kass	Markus Zusak

**Directions:** In a five paragraph essay, discuss a major theme from your summer reading selection. You may use a universal theme from the list below or think of your own. Your essay should be typed double spaced using size 12, Times New Roman font. The rubric showing how you will be graded is attached.

### POPULAR UNIVERSAL THEMES

Courage  
Friendship  
Hope  
Honesty  
Revenge  
Perseverance

### Rubric for Critiques

Standards Addressed	4 - Strong	3 - Effective	2 - Developing	1 - Not Yet
<p><b>Word Choice</b> <b>W8.2D</b></p> <p>Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses vivid, strong, and creative word choice, there are no dead words</li> <li>• Uses formal language, and avoids: contractions and personal pronouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses ordinary word choice, including the occasional dead word</li> <li>• Generally uses formal language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequently uses dead words</li> <li>• Sometimes uses formal language, but also includes contractions and/ or personal pronouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses dull, repetitive words</li> <li>• Uses informal language</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ideas</b> <b>W8.2A</b></p> <p>Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow and organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engages the reader with a clear thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engages the reader with a thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to engage the reader with a thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates little or no ability to engage the reader with a thesis</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conventions</b> <b>L8.2</b></p> <p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes with highly effective capitalization, punctuation, and grammar that make the paper easy to read and understand</li> <li>• Spelling is accurate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes with mostly correct capitalization, punctuation, and grammar; demonstrates minimal errors that do not make the writing difficult to read or understand</li> <li>• Spelling is mostly accurate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes with capitalization, punctuation, and grammatical errors that cause confusion and slow the reader down</li> <li>• There are many spelling mistakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes with numerous spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammatical errors that make the writing difficult to follow</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organization</b> <b>W8.2C</b></p> <p>Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes 5 paragraphs in a clear/organized structure, with transitional phrases that connect paragraph to paragraph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes 5 paragraphs in a fairly clear and organized structure, with transitional phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May write 5 paragraphs but with weak organizational structure, missing some transitional phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes with weak organizational structure, and lacks transitional phrases</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intro/Conclusion</b> <b>W8.2F</b></p> <p>Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction &amp; conclusion effectively tie together the piece</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction &amp; conclusion tie together the overall piece</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction &amp; conclusion are weak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction &amp; conclusion do not effectively tie together the essay.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Understanding this Form of Writing: Critique</b> <b>W8.2E</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain a formal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively uses quotes and details to support a thesis</li> <li>• Uses correct MLA formatting for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses quotes and details to support a thesis</li> <li>• Generally uses correct MLA formatting for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistently uses quotes and details to support a thesis</li> <li>• Inconsistently uses correct MLA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lacks quotes and details to support a thesis</li> <li>• Formatting is generally incorrect or</li> </ul>

style.	parenthetical citation of quotes	parenthetical citation of quotes	formatting for parenthetical citation of quotes	is missing for some quotes
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