

THE CORWIN-RUSSELL SCHOOL

STATEMENT ON SUMMER READING (and some guidelines in case questions arise...)

We assign summer reading for a variety of reasons. One of the most important is that it often helps a student discover recreational reading, which is part of the Broccoli way of life. Recreational reading is also an effective way for students to build their vocabularies, and exercise their reading skills. Additionally, sustained reading over the summer break helps students retain valuable skills learned during the course of the school year.

Each student is required to read three to four books this summer. One book *must* be from List A, List B, or List C. The others may be of their choosing, or they may choose three more from the lists. All students must complete reading responses - either by filling out a reading response form, or by writing a short review - on each of the books they read. Enclosed are the reading lists, a helpful glossary sheet with plot diagram, and a reading response form OR book review writing template. We are trying to promote one of the most special of all gifts - excitement about books and learning.

For those who read additional books, a magnificent, fabulous, wonderful bonus will be given!

Some guidelines for those writing reviews:

- The templates included might help you get a “jump start” on writing, but you may decide to write your own review. In either case, be sure you include the following information for each book you read:
 1. Relevant biographical information about the book’s author.
 2. A brief summary of the book (major characters, plot).
 3. Discussion of the major characters, conflicts, symbols, themes.
 4. A critical evaluation of the work. This means:
 - a. Did it accomplish its purpose effectively? (Or can a purpose be determined?)
 - b. Were the characters, and their conflicts, realistic? Were they interesting?
Both? Neither?
 - c. What were the work’s strengths and weaknesses?
 - d. Was the book, overall, any good in YOUR opinion?
- Please try to write at least a 2-to-3 pages on each book. In the cases of more thorough writers, we suggest you keep to five pages in an effort to keep from writing TOO much. A good reviewer is succinct, so that his or her reader gets a quick, thorough idea of the work being reviewed.

Enjoy!!



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