

# Incoming • Eighth • Grade

## 2023 Summer Reading List

Harmony Township School • Ms. Smith

**Assignment:** Read **two** of the following books from the list provided below. Then, complete the [reading log](#) Google Form for each book and the [writing assignment](#) attached (all assignments are accessible through the Summer Reading Google Classroom). You only need to complete the Reading Response Writing Assignment for **ONE** of the two books you read. ALL assignments *must be submitted online through Google Classroom* by 8:00 AM on the first day of school (August 30, 2023).

### **TITLE:**

**Book Thief, the** (H)

**Call of the Wild, the** (C / A)

**Clean Getaway** (R)

**Divergent** (S)

**Free Lunch** (N)

**Hobbit, the** (C / F)

**Life as We Knew It** (S)

**Lord of the Flies** (R / C / A)

**Mockingbird** (R)

**Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, the** (R)

### **AUTHOR:**

Markus Zusak

Jack London

Nic Stone

Veronica Roth

Rex Ogle

J.R.R. Tolkien

Susan Beth Pfeffer

William Golding

Kathryn Erskine

Dan Gemeinhart

### **Legend:**

R = realistic fiction

C = classic

S = science fiction

A = adventure

H = historical fiction

F = fantasy

N = nonfiction



# *Reading Response Journal*

Summer Reading 2023

**Assignment:** As you read, keep a reading response journal. You will need to turn in one reading response journal for ONE of the novels that you read this summer. The journal must have at least 5 entries per column - you need to have at least: **1 quote from the beginning, 1 quote from the middle, and 1 quote from the end** of the novel - **the last 2 quotes you may choose from any part of the book**. Your reading response journal should be typed and must be designed like the example attached (or points will be deducted).

## ***Instructions / Format:***

1. Title your journal with the title and author of your novel. Include your name and grade on the top left of the page.
2. Separate the page into two columns using the "Insert > Table" option at the top.
3. The **left column will be for meaningful passages/quotes** from the text — perhaps some dialogue, a description, or a character's thought. Always write down the page number the quote came from.
4. The **right column will be your response** to the quotation:
  - a. Why did you choose it?
  - b. Did it puzzle or confuse you?
  - c. Did it remind you of something?
  - d. What does it mean to you?
  - e. How might this quote be important to the theme of the story?
  - f. Can you make a prediction?

***Do not wait until you finish reading to write your responses.***

The responses should reflect what you are thinking as you *read* the novel, not what you think when you are finished with the novel.

---

**Remember:** Make sure you understand that your **right column entries ARE NOT summaries** of your chosen quote. They are **your reactions** to the passage. Journals that only summarize the story will be unacceptable. A good, thoughtful, developed response is generally 5-7 sentences.

***Example of Reading Response Journal on the next page.***



### *A Reading Response Journal should look like:*

- Times New Roman
- double-spaced
- font size 12
- must have 5 quotes chosen

(The example only shows 3; however, you need 5.)

---

### ***YES! An example of an adequate (good) Reading Response Journal:***

Name: Ms. Smith

Grade: 8

Book Title/Author: Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Quotations from Text with Page Number	My Thoughts
“ ‘Thanks. It’s really nice.’ But the words sounded hollow, even to Brian.” (8)	<i>Why does Brian feel that way about getting a hatchet from his Mom? If the words sounded hollow to Brian, he must not mean it. Why is he mad at his Mom?</i> <b>(Asking questions)</b>
“No roads, no trails, no clearings. Just the lakes, and it came to him that he would have to use a lake for landing. If he went down into the trees he was certain to die.” (23)	<i>He really is able to stay calm in this situation which is crazy to me because he is just a kid. If I were in a situation like that I’d probably feel paralyzed or I’d just cry! He will obviously make other calm and smart decisions throughout the novel if he is already tackling something so important as landing a plane.</i>
“Now, with the thought of the burger, the emptiness roared at him. He could not believe the hunger, had never felt this way. The lake water had filled his stomach but left it hungry, and it demanded food, screamed for food.” (48)	<i>I like the phrase, “the emptiness roared at him”. The use of personification in this instance sounds cool. I definitely feel like my stomach sometimes roars. I wonder if he is going to start eating things that are poisonous because he is so hungry...</i>

***NO! An inadequate (not so good) entry looks like:***

Name: Ms. Smith

Grade: 8

Book Title/Author: Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Quotations from Text with Page Number	My Thoughts
<p>“It kept coming back 2 that. He had nothing.” <b><i>(No page number indicated.)</i></b></p> <p>“Things wer bad, he thout, but maybe not that bad.” <b><i>(This text excerpt has 2 misspellings and does not include a page number.)</i></b></p>	<p>I know how that feels. I have nothing too. <b><i>(This connection is rather shallow. It needs more elaboration.)</i></b></p> <p>I feel that way too sometimes. <b><i>(Again, this connection does not appear to have any thought behind it.)</i></b></p>

Remember, your response is **NOT** a summary of the quote.

It is **your** thoughts/predictions/response to the quote!