

Name: _____

Summer Reading & Writing -- Grade 8

Reading

- **Continue reading BOOKS!**

Keep up our habit: read a book, rate it on Goodreads (so Goodreads can make increasingly helpful recommendations for you), and then pick up a new book. No need to keep a log if you are rating your finished books in GoodReads. You should be able to return to school & share what titles you read, though.

(Based on your reading rates from this past school year, **everyone should be able to read 3-4 books over the course of the summer**. If you are choosing super-long or super-challenging books and think you won't quite hit that mark, email me and we can chat about it!)

While you should choose books you will enjoy reading, also make choices that will **challenge** you in some way:

- A classic / and older title
- A new genre
- Longer books
- Books intended for an older audience with more advanced vocabulary
- Books about a topic that is new to you

If you need suggestions, send me an email and let's chat!

- **Read some short nonfiction, too!**

I'd also like you to read some nonfiction! We'll be focusing a lot on this in 8th grade. So, read around the Internet (use the list we developed together at the end of the year for websites you'll enjoy!). **Keep a record of the five most interesting articles you read this summer.** (These articles should be from throughout the summer -- not the day before school starts.) We'll be using this at the beginning of the year!

| Article Title | Author | Website / Source |
|---------------|--------|------------------|
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Writing

- Complete the IXL Diagnostic

This will include both math and language arts questions -- so don't be alarmed if you see math! Just do your best! This will help me plan for our year together!

Let's write down your IXL Login info before you go:

Username: _____

Password: _____

After you login, click the "Diagnostic" tab in the menu and get to work!

- **Grab a composition book & start planning for 8th grade writing**

In the fall when you begin to write answers on high school applications and essays for admissions tests, your success as a writer is going to hinge on your ability to describe small moments.

(Remember our narrative scenes in the winter? Yep -- just like that!) So, this summer, I want you to begin to gather a collection of little moments -- tiny stories that you can weave into application answers and test essays to show your voice and make your writing stand out.

- 1) Get a new composition notebook. (This will be the notebook you start with in English in August.)
- 2) Dedicate the first two pages to this cause. Title these pages: Small Moments for Bigger Writing
- 3) Brainstorm small moments and memories (3-5 minute stories just like your narrative scene).
For the purposes of this work, think about QUANTITY! How many different options can you come up with? Think about:
 - Important firsts
 - Significant lasts
 - Moments of intense emotion
 - Moments of realization when you understood something in a new way
 - Small moments that demonstrate your personality or character
 - Unusual moments other people won't have experienced themselves
 - Really cool or beautiful things you see or experience (including this summer!)

There are no rights or wrongs here -- and this is brainstorming, not a commitment! But, as brainstorming, the more the better. Remember that the longer you think, the more creative your thoughts become!