

**Wood-Ridge Junior-Senior High School**  
**Summer Assignment 2023**  
**For students entering Grade 8 in September 2023**

**Grade 8 English Honors, Mrs. Papp**

**GRADE 8 ENGLISH HONORS STUDENTS SHOULD COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING  
TWO ASSIGNMENTS:**

**DIRECTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT 1**

Students are encouraged to read *This I Believe II* by Jay Allison or an interesting text of your choice and complete the assignment that follows. The text should be readily available through most online booksellers. This is an optional summer enrichment assignment that can help transition students into the first marking period.

**ASSIGNMENT 1**

Write a 4 to 5 paragraph letter to the author of your non-fiction text critiquing the book. Use the following questions as a guide:

- How well were the accounts constructed? Was it chronological? (Explain or support)
- Did the book have a clear focus? Was it entertaining? (Explain, use examples from the text)
- Was this an honest portrayal of the subject? (Explain, why or why not)
- What main points about the subject did you agree (or disagree) with? (Support)

Make sure to use proper letter formatting. This letter must be computer generated. The rubric for the letter component will be distributed in class. Make sure to include the title of your non-fiction book in the opening paragraph.

**DIRECTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT 2**

Students are encouraged to read *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain or an interesting text of your choice and complete the assignment that follows. The text should be readily available through most online booksellers. This is an optional summer enrichment assignment that can help transition students into the first marking period.

**ASSIGNMENT 2**

Create a Slideshow providing detailed information on the topics below. Use specific details from the text wherever possible. Students are encouraged to explore their selected text and think about the following components of literature to help them prepare for the new school year.

- Title, Author, Date of Publication
- Genre and Two Characteristics of the Genre
- Your critique of the book
- Setting (time and place)

- Summary of the plot (should include introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion)
- Key Quotations (including page number) and why each quote is significant to the character/plot
- List all main characters, their roles in the story, and character traits
- Importance of the Opening and Closing Scenes
- Examples of Literary Devices (such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, imagery, or symbolism) and How they were used in the story
- Explain the dominant themes of the story

## **NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING STANDARDS**

### NJSLS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.1

Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### NJSLS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

### NJSLS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3

Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

### NJSLS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

### NJSLS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.6

Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

### NJSLS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis.

Summer Assignment Letter Rubric:

#### Conventions 20%

- ☐ I have four or more paragraphs, each with five or more sentences.
- ☐ I have used correct grammar.
- ☐ I have used correct punctuation.
- ☐ I have checked my spelling and typos.
- ☐ I have an MLA (or letter) heading & I write in the format of a letter.

#### Fluency 15%

- ☐ My sentences build logically upon the one(s) before.
- ☐ My sentences are different lengths and start in different ways, and my sentences flow easily from one to another.
- ☐ The meaning of each of my sentences is clear.
- ☐ There are no run-ons or fragments.
- ☐ I maintain one verb tense.

#### Ideas 50%

- ☐ My essay is clear and focused. I stay on topic.
- ☐ Details in my essay demonstrate that I read the book.
- ☐ My ideas relate to one another.
- ☐ I ask two pertinent questions that demonstrate that I thought about what I read.
- ☐ I reference at least three interesting things that I read in this book, using pertinent details to back up my points.

#### Organization 15%

- ☐ Ideas are organized in a meaningful way.
- ☐ The sequence of ideas is logical.
- ☐ My introduction is interesting and inviting.
- ☐ I used helpful transitions between main points.
- ☐ I have a satisfying conclusion.