

## **Grade 7: Summer Reading BOOK REVIEW**

***Read one fiction book at your reading level or above.***

In grade 7 students will learn the importance of identifying main ideas in a text. This skill is built upon in the following grades and is a basis for understanding complex works of literature. In addition, you should begin to form thoughtful and thorough opinions about the literature you are reading beyond whether you think something is good or bad. As you read a work of fiction this summer, focus on identifying the main ideas and explaining your opinion of the book in detail.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt that relates to the book's thematic statement (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an explanation as to why you chose this passage - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 3 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement.

## **Grade 8: Summer Reading BOOK REVIEW**

***Read one fiction book.***

In grade 8 students will continue to build on the importance of identifying main ideas in a text and offering thoughtful opinions on a work of literature. "Coming of Age" is a major theme that is studied in the 8th grade and is explored in a variety of short stories, plays, novels, and poetry. As you read a work of fiction this summer, identify the main ideas, explain your opinion of the book in detail, and analyze how the story connects to the "Coming of Age" theme.

**Coming of Age:** A "Coming of Age" story focuses on the maturation of the protagonist as he or she grows from youth to adulthood. This transition from childhood differs for everyone and is part of what makes "Coming of Age" a very popular theme in literature.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Brief summary of the book
- Thematic statement found in the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt that relates to the book's thematic statement (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an explanation as to why you chose this passage - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!

- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 3 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement.

## **Grade 9: Summer Reading ARCHETYPE REFLECTION**

***Read one fiction book.***

In grade 9 students study five of the literary archetypes commonly used to shape story plot-lines. An archetype is an original form that is used as a basis for perpetual use over time. These archetypes help us understand who we are as a product of Western heritage. The psychologist Carl Jung suggested that some of these archetypes were built into our collective human subconscious, kind of like instincts.

In literature, we see stories based on these archetypes throughout history. From the earliest oral myths about Greek gods in Western heritage to the latest movie blockbuster, these structures appear over and over again. What makes them most interesting to us as critical readers is how authors, directors, and artists modify the archetypes, how they change things just enough to keep the stories new and fresh.

As you read a work of fiction this summer, consider how that novel might be exhibiting elements of one of the following common literary archetypes. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring these archetypes, and you will be responsible for sharing connections to your book in both writing and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Brief summary of the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt that relates to the book's thematic statement (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an explanation as to why you chose this passage - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Match the storyline you identified with one of the five literary archetypes noted here. Provide an explanation as to how the story you read conforms in some way to the archetype. Include specific supporting textual evidence of the plot elements you identify: descriptions of events; character or narrative quotations; and literary features, such as figurative language, imagery, or style.
- Analyze the value of using the archetype—how does the common storyline influence your interpretation of the story? What is the author trying to convey by using this archetype?
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 5 minute presentation. that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

**Cycle of Life.** Sometimes considered Death and Rebirth, the cycle of life is probably the most common of all the story archetypes. In cycle of life stories you will notice a literal or metaphorical death followed by renewal. Every ending is a new beginning...

**Loss of Innocence.** In the loss of innocence archetype you will encounter a character that starts out unaware of the dangers, sin, or evils ever present in grown-up life. That character will encounter the danger, sin, or evil in such a way that s/he becomes initiated into the day to day reality most grown-ups live with. The character is now faced with understanding his/her place in the world differently and must reconsider his/her own identity.

**The Hero's Journey.** This archetype reflects a typical adventure plot in which a character sets out on a literal or metaphorical journey to discover something new about him- her-self or the world. Along the journey, the character encounters numerous complications and trials s/he must overcome and typically leads to a big, final show-down with some evil. After defeating the biggest obstacle, the hero earns a gift—often understanding a new truth—which s/he brings back home.

**Unrequited or Forbidden Love.** Unrequited love means pursuing a love interest with someone who does not return that love. Forbidden love means exploring a love interest that is either prohibited or deemed unacceptable for any number of reasons. In these stories you will often see a relentless pursuit of the love interests until some final outcome is reached that causes individuals or communities to reconsider their identity or values.

**Mysterious Stranger.** In a lot of ways this is like the journey archetype, where an individual shows up as an outsider and encounters obstacles. The stranger here typically takes a central role in a community as a savior, and his/her presence initiates the community into a reconsideration of its identity and self-awareness. You will often see the stranger in these stories using a particularly unique skill that involves intelligence, wit, and charisma in contrast with brute strength.

## **Grade 10: Summer Reading THEMATIC REFLECTION**

***Read one fiction or nonfiction book.***

In grade 10 students study one's identity as a member of a community. Language is power. In other words, authority is determined by who gets to tell the stories in a culture and how they are told. Around the globe, cultures compete to establish and maintain a voice to tell those

stories. Sometimes cultures coexist, learn from one another and even assimilate. Sometimes they don't. In either case it is the voice itself—an expression of identity and a reflection of cultural values—that constructs a civilization.

In literature, we see stories based on the themes underlying voice throughout history. From the cautionary tales of George Orwell and William Golding to the timeless portrayal of true courage and empathy in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, these themes allow us to examine human nature through literature in order to better understand ourselves and those around us.

As you read a work of literature this summer, consider how that text might be exhibiting elements of one of the following themes. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring these themes, and you will be responsible for sharing connections to your book in both written and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Brief summary of the book
- A favorite passage/excerpt that relates to a theme in the book (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an explanation as to why you chose this passage - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Match the storyline you identified with one of the five themes noted here. Provide an explanation as to how the story you read conforms in some way to the theme. Include specific supporting textual evidence of the plot elements you identify: descriptions of events; character or narrative quotations; and literary features such as figurative language, imagery, or style.
- Analyze the value of using the theme—how does the theme reflect the struggle for identity? What is the author trying to convey by using this theme?
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 5 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

## **Culture & Conflict**

What constitutes culture?

What happens when cultures collide?

How is culture shaped, evolved, and/or destroyed?

How is identity reflected in/tied to environments?

## **Leadership**

How do leaders use language?

What constitutes leadership?  
How does a leader establish credibility and authority?  
How can leadership act as a force of good or evil?

### **Power & Language**

How do power and authority operate through language?  
What's being revealed/concealed in language/stories?  
What constitutes power and authority?

### **Insiders & Outsiders**

What are the processes of centralization and marginalization?  
What is being elevated; what is being suppressed?  
Is there always an insider and an outsider?

### **Voices Carry Over Time**

Where does my voice come from?  
How do I gain a voice?  
How does my voice reflect cultural values?  
Multiple Perspectives:  
    Can two people see the same thing?  
    Are there always two sides to a story?

## **Grade 11: Summer Reading BOOK REVIEW**

***Read one fiction or nonfiction book.***

In grade 11 students study the progress of American national identity from the pre-colonial period to the present. Students encounter and explore five significant historical, literary, and cultural movements reflected in fiction, nonfiction, art, music, and language.

For your summer reading, prepare a presentation about a fiction or nonfiction text by an American author. The elements and requirements are detailed below.

As you read this summer, consider how your selected text conveys a theme. Identifying theme will be a signature skill related to exploring national identity in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring how national identity is reflected thematically in literature; you will be responsible for sharing connections to how theme is reflected in your book in both written and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Brief summary of the book
- Establish a purpose (what is the theme and how does the author go about conveying the theme?—think about literary elements. The emphasis is more on how the text works than what happens and what it means - avoid summarizing the plot.)
- Analysis (explain and explore how the author uses literary elements to convey his or her ideas...in addition to literary elements, consider themes and archetypes you have been studying over the past two years)
- Evaluation (explore how well the author achieved what s/he set out to achieve; make a judgment of the author's use of literary techniques; explore the value of the literary techniques this author uses to reflect this theme)
- A favorite passage/excerpt (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an explanation as to why you chose this passage - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 5-7 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

## **Grade 12: Summer Reading MULTIPLE BOOK REVIEW**

***Read one fiction and one nonfiction book.***

In grade 12 students study various literary genres and writing modes. Students encounter and explore historical, literary, and cultural movements reflected in fiction, nonfiction, art, music, and language, and they write college and career preparatory analyses, reports, arguments, and narratives.

For your summer reading, prepare a presentation about a related fiction and nonfiction text. The elements and requirements of the review are detailed below.

As you read this summer, consider how your selected texts convey a theme. When you return to school in the fall, your class will spend some time exploring how multiple texts and genres reflect common themes; you will be responsible for sharing connections to how theme is reflected in your books in both written and oral presentations.

**Assignment:** Create a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation to share with your class on the first day of school. This presentation should include the following:

- Brief summary of the book
- Establish a purpose (what is the theme and how does the author go about conveying the theme?—think about literary elements. The emphasis is more on how the text works than what happens and what it means - avoid summarizing the plot.)
- Analysis (explain and explore how the author uses literary elements to convey his or her ideas...in addition to literary elements, consider themes and archetypes you have been studying over the past two years)
- Evaluation (explore how well the author achieved what s/he set out to achieve; make a judgment of the author's use of literary techniques; explore the value of the literary techniques this author uses to reflect this theme)
- A favorite passage/excerpt (minimum: two sentences / maximum: two paragraphs) and an explanation as to why you chose this passage - Note: this passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- Review of the book you have read. What makes the book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Interesting visuals that relate to your book

Your final product should be a 7-10 minute presentation that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates back to the thematic statement. Be sure to include appropriate citations for the book when including material in support of the position you take. Use the Purdue University online writing lab as a resource for MLA style guide, reference, and formatting (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).