

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 8th Graders – Fall 2019

Reading outside the classroom is an essential ingredient in your academic success. For this reason, we are committed to a summer reading program at Grace Community School. The summer reading program is designed to provide opportunities to extend the skills you have developed during the previous year's instruction. Reading is an essential life skill; therefore, it is imperative to increase your abilities in reading and comprehension rather than recover skills lost over the summer months. The summer reading list is intended to challenge you to extend your abilities beyond what you would normally choose to read.

Summer Reading Guidelines:

- Summer reading is a required assignment.
- The signed form documenting completion of summer reading is **due on Friday, August 16.**
- You are required to read **two** books:
 1. A spiritual emphasis book, Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris
 - *Available at Barnes and Noble; Amazon for \$10.49; Kindle \$13.99; Tyler Public Library
 - ◆ You will complete a "Passage Journal" for the spiritual emphasis book (see "Passage Journal" assignment page) for a test grade. The journal is **due Monday, August 19.**
 - ◆ We will be engaging in discussions and writing paragraphs on topics discussed in this book, so it is imperative that you read the book in its entirety.
 2. A book from the Reading List provided
 - ◆ You will take an AR quiz on the book from the Reading List the week we return to school.
 - ◆ You may not take an AR test on a book in which you have already taken an LS test.

“Passage Journal”

1. While reading, choose a passage from every chapter that impacts you in one of the following ways:
 - a) Made you see something in a different light
 - b) Helped you understand something
 - c) Called me to action
 - d) Prompted me to re-evaluate my spiritual walk and to change my behavior or attitude toward something
 - e) Supported an idea you already had
 - f) Cause you to live that moment with the author
 - g) Reminded you of a time in your life

***(you must use all of the above at least once)**
2. On a separate piece of paper for each chapter, write the chapter # and chapter title.
3. Then, copy the passage (word-for-word). Please make sure you write legibly, or you may type the journal if you choose.
4. Cite the page where the passage was found.
5. Note how the passage impacted you according to the 7 ways above.
6. Then give three to five bullet points as to how the passage impacted your life.

EXAMPLE:

Chapter 2 “Expired Milk”

Passage: “But it made me think about rotten, expired milk. You see, expiration dates are on almost everything, just like milk. Almost everything on this earth will one day be gone. My dog, my house, my computer, my iPod, my basketball, even my cell phone (especially when I forget to take it out of my pocket and it goes through the wash...twice).”
(page 15-16)

Prompted me to re-evaluate my spiritual walk and to change my behavior or attitude toward something

Impact:

- I realized how often I am consumed with material things that will not last forever
- I thought about what the Bible says about storing up treasures in heaven
- I need to shift my focus to things the Bible says are eternal. The souls of people matter more than material possessions.
- I was reminded of how what I think is a must-have today will be out of date within a year or so. Hebrews 13:8 tells me Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

7. You **must** follow the format in the example above.
8. Cover sheet should include your name, date, the title of the assigned book and the author’s name.
9. Place in a clear essay cover.

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Parents, please complete the information below

and return this form by Friday, August 16.

My Child _____, read _____ for their required book from the reading list provided.

My child also read Do Hard Things, by Alex and Brett Harris, for their required spiritual emphasis reading.

***I affirm that my child, _____, read the books listed above for their summer reading requirements.**

Parent Signature

8TH GRADE READING LIST

Little Women Little Men Eight Cousins Jack and Jill Jo's Boys	Alcott
A Kind of Secret Weapon	Arnold, Elliot
A Gathering of Days	Baum
Nick of Time: An Adventure Through Time	Bell, Ted
The Incredible Journey	Burnford, Sheila
Robinson Crusoe (unabridged)	Defoe
Gifted Hands (Biography)	Carson, Ben
David Copperfield (unabridged) Oliver Twist (unabridged)	Dickens
The Hound of the Baskervilles (unabridged)	Doyle, Arthur Conan
Wind in the Willows (unabridged)	Grahame
Dark Frigate	Hawes
Across Five Aprils	Hunt, Irene
Mossflower	Jacques, Brian
Trumpton of Krakow	Kelly
Jungle Book Captains Courageous All the Mowgli Stories	Kipling
Onion John	Krumgold
Anna and the King of Siam	Landon, Margaret
Carry On, Mr. Bowditch	Latham
Phantom of the Opera (unabridged)	Leroux
That Hideous Strength Perelandra	Lewis, C.S.
Call of the Wild	London, Jack
Rascal	North, Sterling

The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day The Black Pearl	O'Dell, Scott
Hatchet	Paulsen
Men of Iron The Merry Adv. Of Robin Hood Otto of the Silver Hand	Pyle
The Yearling	Rawlings
Kidnapped Treasure Island	Stevenson
Let the Circle Be Unbroken	Taylor, Mildred
Connecticut Yankee in King Authur's Court	Twain
Pudd'nhead Wilson	Twain
Ben Hur (unabridged)	Wallace
The Sword in the Stone	White
Swiss Family Robinson	Wyss, J.

Please AVOID reading these Middle School classroom novels:

The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Speare
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Twain
The Hiding Place	Ten Boom
And Then There Were None	Agatha Christi