Rising 7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

The following assignments will be collected on the first day of class. Use one three-pronged report cover to keep your papers. This will count as your first Literature grade.

Each of your responses should be on a separate sheet of paper and NO MORE than two paragraphs. These are NOT meant to be book reports, but rather ways your reading “speaks” to you. Let your responses connect to an idea, reject an idea or create an idea. Find associations -- to images, to your fantasies, to your own experiences. What did the author write that you remember most vividly? Respond deeply, write honestly, admit confusion, expand on the author’s ideas, attempt to discover your own style. Keep a small notepad with you as you read so you can jot down these “snapshots” as they come to mind.

You have a total of FOUR assignments. For EACH assignment, head your pages with YOUR NAME, the TITLE, the AUTHOR, and the TYPE of literature as noted below.

Begin each entry with a paragraph giving a short summary of what you read (three to five sentences). **Your second paragraph is a response using one of the sentence starters (*Wonderings and Wanderings*) that follows.**

**Assignment One** **~** Read EITHER...

**Short Stories:** Choose 3. Authors like O. Henry, Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain are good starting points, but check with your local librarian for others. There are hundreds!

**OR**

**Folk Tales/Legends/Myths:** Choose 3. (NOT three of each; three altogether.) Suggestions include, *but are not limited to,* “D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths,” Aesop’s Fables, and tall tales like Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill or John Henry.

**Assignment Two** **~** Read EITHER...

**Poetry:** Choose 1 book of poems. This can be a collection or a story told in verse.

**OR**

**Saint Biography:** SHORT (50-100 pages, but not an entry in a book on saints or an Internet site). This book can be from children’s literature, not necessarily young adult. Begin with a paragraph briefly telling what is known about his/her life. What is s/he patron saint of? What can you do to be like him/her? Then start your second paragraph with a response prompt.

**Assignment Three** **~**

**Fiction:** Choose 1. If you don’t have books in mind, use the Battle of the Books reading list found on the school website. Click on “Academics,” then “Library.” Scroll down to the Battle of the Books list. The recommended reading list found at your local public library is another great resource.

**Assignment Four** **~**

**Nonfiction:** Choose 3. These can include newspaper or magazine articles, an essay in a journal, an Internet article, a short book, etc.

The last item is not a reading selection and is OPTIONAL:

**Movie:** Write a movie review – 1st paragraph, BRIEFLY explain the plot ***without*** giving away the ending. 2nd paragraph, write what you liked about this movie. This can include something about the characters/actors, setting, technical effects, etc. 3rd paragraph, write what you didn’t like (characters, setting, plot, etc.). 4th paragraph, what would you rate this movie? You can use a star rating system, or some other creative symbol. This can be a movie you saw in the theater or an old favorite on DVD.

**Wonderings and Wanderings**

Remember, the purpose of this assignment is for you to write ***responses*** to the literature, not book reports. Each assignmentmust be on a separate page and may be NO MORE than two paragraphs. Reading choices must be grade-level appropriate selections or classic literature. Talk to your public librarian for great ideas!

You should begin each assignment with a short summary of what you read (three to five sentences) so I get the main point, but then write your response.

***As you read, try exploring with the following sentence starters...***

1. I wonder...
2. I began to think of...
3. I suppose...
4. I don’t see...
5. I like the idea...
6. I know the feeling...
7. I noticed...
8. I love the way...
9. I was surprised...
10. I can’t (didn’t) really understand...
11. I thought...
12. I can’t believe...
13. If I had been...
14. I was reminded of...
15. Why did...
16. Maybe...
17. I wish...

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER AS YOU COMPLETE YOUR SUMMER READING:

√ All reports should be typed.

√ The font should be 12-point.

√ Use Times New Roman or a similar font.

√ Double-space your paper - THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST.

√ REVISE AND EDIT YOUR WORK. Ask someone else (like a parent) to read it.

**HAVE A PARENT SIGN THE LAST PAGE OF YOUR RESPONSES!**