



TKA Summer Reading /Writing Assignment

For Rising 7th and 8th Grade Students



Students **must** read the **bolded book title** and **one of the other books** that are listed for their grade level. After reading each book, students are to **write a book review that follows the directions below**. The reviews for the assigned book and chosen book are due on the first day of class in August. Points will be taken off the student's grade for every day the assignment is late per the student handbook. Each review (2 total) will be counted as a test grade. The teacher will grade for content, completion of the instructions outlined below, and grammar/spelling. Following evaluation, the reviews will be posted in the classroom to encourage other classmates to read the books. Please type or neatly write your book reviews so that they can be easily read.

Writing Project: Book Review

Directions: Write a book review on your assigned book and a book review on your book of choice. In your review, make sure to include the information below. Each paragraph should be 3-6 sentences.

- **Paragraph 1:** Identify the book title, author, copyright year, and page number. Be sure to underline or italicize all words in the title. Also, explain the significance of the title in connection with the story. (Why did the author choose the title? What is its deeper meaning?)
- **Paragraph 2:** Summarize the plot of the novel. Include the setting, a description of the main characters, and a quick summary of important events. (But don't give too much away!)
- **Paragraph 3:** Main characters are often described as being dynamic because the events in the story bring about a change in the character. Identify what caused a character to change and explain how he/she changed. Use story details as much as possible.
- **Paragraph 4:** Write an evaluation of the book. (What did you enjoy about the book and why? Did the book hold your attention? Why or why not? Did the end of the story surprise you? Why or why not? Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?)
- **Paragraph 5:** Connect your book to the Bible by explaining how a verse relates to events or characters in the novel. For example, in Charles Dickens's *The Christmas Carol*, Scrooge realizes that having money is not the ultimate purpose of life. Solomon warns in Proverbs 11:4 that "riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." Dickens uses his story, like Solomon, to remind the reader that greediness will leave us empty at the end of life and that money cannot save us from death or judgment.

Rising 7th Graders' Reading Choices

1. ***Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell (Required for all rising 7th graders)**
2. *Holes* by Louis Sachar
3. *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
4. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Unabridged) by C. S. Lewis
5. *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata

Rising 8th Graders' Reading Choices

1. ***Cheaper By the Dozen* by Frank B. Gilbreth (Required for all rising 8th graders)**
2. *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford
3. *Red Badge of Courage* (Unabridged) by Stephen Crane
4. *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery
5. *Blood on the River: James Town 1607* by Elisa Carbone