



Westminster Christian Academy

# 8TH GRADE SUMMER READING

FOUNDATION OF WRITING AND LITERATURE 8

As we work together with families to create lifelong learners, Westminster Christian Academy expects that our students will continue reading throughout the summer months. In working towards this goal, over the summer all incoming eighth grade students will be required to **read two books** from the list below.

## THE ASSIGNMENT

**STEP #1**      **READ two** choice books selected from the list below. Students should pick a book they have not read before. It is important that students select a book that they will enjoy.

**STEP #2**      **WRITE** (type) an essay response to your book following the guidelines explained below.

**CHOOSE ONE PROMPT:**

**PROMPT 1:** Think about the characters in each of the books you chose for summer reading. Pick three characters from the two books you have read (have at least one character from each novel) that display character qualities that you desire. In a paragraph for each character, describe and explain their desirable traits by using evidence from the text and explain why you might desire to have those same qualities in your own life. Be sure to give specific examples.

***Up for a challenge? Choose this prompt***

**PROMPT 2:** Could Luke Skywalker rescue the Lost Ark? Could Woody have found Nemo? Can characters found in one book deal with the conflict found in another book? Determine the conflict of one of the choice books you read for summer reading and explain how or if a character from the other book you read for summer reading would be able to deal with that conflict. How does that character's traits, qualities, strengths, weaknesses, life experiences equip him or her to deal with that conflict, or is it hopeless? Give 3 strong reasons and examples supporting your opinion either way.

**For help with structuring your essay and specific essay requirements, see the rubric on the next page.**

**STEP #3**      Please **submit the essay** to **summerreading8@wcastl.org** by Monday, August 8th.

- Please title the email with the student's first and last name.
- If possible, please submit the response **as a PDF**; if you aren't able to submit a PDF, please type your response in the body of the email.
- You will get an automatic email response when you submit your essay. If you do not receive this, please double-check the email address and resend your response.

## THE RESOURCES

### A. Choose 2 books from this list:

Book Author	Choice Book Titles
Rowling, J.K.	any book from the <i>The Harry Potter Series</i>
Collins, Suzanne	any book from <i>The Hunger Games Series</i>
Dashner, James	any book from <i>The Maze Runner Series</i>
Riordan, Rick	any book from <i>The Percy Jackson series</i>
L'Engle, Madeline	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>
Lowry, Lois	<i>The Giver</i>
Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie	<i>The Compound</i>
Gratz, Alan	<i>Prisoner B-3087</i>
Gratz, Alan	<i>Refugee</i>

### B. Rubric for grading (20 points)

- **3 Body Paragraphs** - (5 points each) 15 points total

Each prompt should be addressed with **3 body paragraphs**, and each paragraph should contain a **topic sentence, specific supporting details from the text, and analysis and reasoning.**

**Topic Sentences:** 1 points

The paragraph has a clear structure and position. The topic sentence includes the book title and author and clearly presents the selected prompt succinctly.

**Supporting Details:** 2 points

The writer references specific, vivid events that display their position on the prompt they have chosen.

**Analysis & Reasoning:** 2 points

The writer fully explains the support that they provide and shows how that support proves their thinking as it relates to their perspective on the chosen prompt. The writing and thinking clearly displays that the writer read and understood the novel.

- **Grammar & Mechanics:** 5 points

The writer pays careful attention to grade-level appropriate grammatical standards: spelling, capitalization, use of complete sentences (no fragments, run ons, or comma splices), subject-verb agreement, and correct word usage.

- **Go the Extra Mile - Write an Introduction**

Writers may choose to begin their essays with an introductory paragraph that clearly lays out the prompt choice and writer's position with a developed thesis statement.

Remember, your written response must be received via email by **MONDAY, AUGUST 8th** in order to avoid a late grade penalty. Students will receive a one-point grade deduction per day that the written assignment is late (up to a 50% total reduction). This will be reflected and noted in the first quarter grade.