

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Summer Reading Assignment 2010**

You will be required to read only one book from the attached list for your summer reading assignment this year. At the beginning of your 8<sup>th</sup> grade English class you will be required to turn in the summer reading worksheet on the book you have read over the summer and write an essay dealing with your book. The worksheet is due the first day of school and points will be deducted for each day it is late. It will be impossible to pass the first quarter in English next year, if you do not read a book from the attached list and complete these two assignments.

The only written work you will need to do over the summer is to fill out the worksheet that is attached to this assignment. This is to help you remember important information about your book and to help you with the essay in the fall.

You may wish to keep a journal as you read. One suggested method for a journal is to keep notes on what you're reading, while simultaneously writing responses to the book. Responses can be questions or comments about your book, your thoughts, feelings and opinions on what is happening, characters, etc. Keeping notes and/or personal responses/reactions will help you to understand and remember your book better. Keeping a journal will only help you to earn a better grade on the test and essay.

Some of the books on this list will be reserved at the Palmer Public Library. Because the demand will be high, you may only check out each book for two weeks. The books may be purchased at most bookstores or online if you choose. This will allow you to read when you want to and at your own pace. By no means should you limit yourself to reading only one book this summer, but you must read at least one for this assignment. Good luck and we'll see you in the fall.

**Palmer High School  
Grade 8 Summer Reading List**

**Fiction**

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|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Skellig</i>   | David Almond          |
| <i>Speak</i>   | Laurie Halse Anderson |
| <i>What Hearts</i>   | Bruce Brooks          |
| <i>Martyn Pig</i>  | Kevin Brooks          |
| <i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i>  | Lincoln and Collier   |
| <i>The Dark is Rising</i>  | Susan Cooper          |
| <i>Heroes</i>  | Robert Cormier        |
| <i>After the First Death</i>   | Robert Cormier        |
| <i>Walk Two Moons</i>  | Sharon Creech         |
| <i>Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes</i>  | Chris Crutcher        |
| <i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i>  | Karen Cushman         |
| <i>Nowhere to Call Home</i>  | Cynthia DeFelice      |
| <i>House of the Scorpion</i>   | Nancy Farmer          |
| <i>Bull Run</i>  | Paul Fleischman       |
| <i>Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key</i>  | Jack Gantos           |
| <i>Hoot</i>  | Carl Hiaason          |
| <i>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</i>                                    | Kimberly Willis Holt  |
| <i>Stormbreaker</i>  | Anthony Horowitz      |
| <i>Soldier Boys</i>  | Dean Hughes           |
| <i>Slap Your Sides</i>   | M.E. Kerr             |
| <i>A Place to Call Home</i>  | Jackie French Koller  |
| <i>Silent to the Bone</i>  | E.L. Konigsburg       |
| <i>Beyond the Burning</i>  | Kathryn Lasky         |
| <i>The Cure</i>  | Sonia Levitin         |
| <i>The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things</i>                      | Carolyn Mackler       |
| <i>Snow Bound</i>  | Harry Mazer           |
| <i>Monster</i>   | Walter Dean Myers     |
| <i>A Face in Every Window</i>  | Han Nolan             |
| <i>Dancing on the Edge</i>   | Han Nolan             |
| <i>If I Should Die Before I Wake</i>                                       | Han Nolan             |
| <i>After the Wreck, I Picked Myself Up, Spread My Wings, and Flew Away</i> | Joyce Carol Oats      |
| <i>Big Mouth &amp; Ugly Girl</i>   | Joyce Carol Oats      |
| <i>Airborn</i>   | Kenneth Oppel         |
| <i>Small Steps</i>   | Louis Sachar          |
| <i>Call It Courage</i>   | Armstrong Sperry      |
| <i>Crash</i>   | Jerry Spinelli        |
| <i>The Cay</i>   | Theodore Taylor       |
| <i>The Good Thief: A Novel</i>   | Hannah Tinti          |
| <i>Flipped</i>   | Wendelin Van Draanen  |
| <i>The Sword and the Stone</i>   | T. H. White           |
| <i>The Homeward Bounders</i>   | Diana Wynne Jones     |
| <i>Archer's Goon</i>   | Diana Wynne Jones     |
| <i>Devil's Arithmetic</i>  | Jane Yolen            |
| <i>Dragon's Blood: The Pit Dragon Chronicles, Volume One</i>               | Jane Yolen            |
| <i>Briar Rose</i>  | Jane Yolen            |
| <i>The Graveyard Book</i>  | Neil Gaiman           |

**NONFICTION TITLES ON BACK**

## **Nonfiction**

*War Is... Soldiers, Survivors, and Storytellers Talk about War*

*Friday Night Lights*

*I Have Lived a Thousand Years*

*In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle*

*Grayson*

*An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming*

*To Be a Slave*

*Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis*

*Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*

Aronson and Campbell (editors)

H. G. Bissinger

Livia Bitton-Jackson

Madeleine Blais

Lynn Cox

Al Gore

Julius Lester

Peter Nelson

Andrea Warren

# Summer Reading Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of story: \_\_\_\_\_

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Characters: \_\_\_\_\_

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Conflicts (a struggle between opposing forces)

External (a struggle between 2 people, or a person and a thing or nature)

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Internal (a struggle inside a person's head; a decision)

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Climax of Plot (What is the turning point of the story in relation to the conflict?)

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Theme (What truth about human nature or the human condition is revealed by the actions of the story?)

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Questions (List any questions that have arisen in your mind while reading the book.)

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Evaluation of the book (Was it enjoyable? Would you recommend it to someone else?)

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