



Required Summer Reading Assignment Stuart Middle School: Grades 6-8

Dear Parents and Students,

Stuart Middle has high expectations for students' literacy development. All students are expected to be actively involved in their own reading plan as well as participating in writing assignments in all content areas. Students will perform at high levels and will be cultivated in a rigorous environment. It is imperative that students begin the school year in the mindset that they are successful and that reading and writing will be the doorway to which they will gain that success. As part of this, **all students** will be required to read at least one book from the Sunshine State Young Readers Award list and participate in the required summer reading program at SMS. It is our hope though, that students' summer reading will encompass more than just one of these novels.

Requirements:

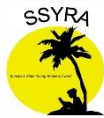
- ✓ **Step 1:** Read one book from the Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) list over the summer
- ✓ **Step 2:** Complete the three required Journal Entries
- ✓ **Step 3:** Complete the required mini project
- ✓ This can be completed digitally or by hand.
- ✓ **DUE DATE: Second Friday after school starts, August 26, 2016**

Please Note: All students must complete summer reading activities before the 2016-2017 school year begins. This assignment will count as a grade for your English Language Arts Class. These assignments help give students the preparation they need to succeed during the school year and they afford teachers an opportunity to gauge students' progress. We look forward to the coming year of growth and success!



Step 1: Read one of the books from the 2016-2017 Sunshine State Young Readers Award List for Grades 6-8.

*Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books (SSYRA) 2016-2017 List for Grades 6-8



All Fall Down by Ally Carter

Grace Blakely's life was turned upside down the night her mother was murdered. Grace believes the scarred man who killed her mother is lurking somewhere on Embassy Row, her new home in the country of Adria. She and her new friends set out to find him and stop another murder from happening. But will it cost her everything? Will Grace find somebody to listen to her before it's too late?

Bot Wars by J.V. Kade

Aiden (Trout) misses his dad whose been missing since the end of the Bot Wars. That conflict, between the increasingly advanced robots who were demanding rights and the humans who owned them, has left the United Districts in dire straits. His older brother won't answer his questions, so he decides to post a video asking for information. It goes viral and now his brother is missing and Trout's a wanted fugitive. Nothing makes sense anymore and Trout doesn't know who to trust.

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books (SSYRA)

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander**

Using riffs from concrete poetry, hip-hop and jazz, this is the verse story of twins Josh and Jordan Bell. Both boys dominate the basketball court, and Josh is also a master of rhythm and rhyme. Their family bond is strong. Things change when Jordan meets a new girl and dad refuses to confront his health problems. Josh finds himself left in a game he no longer feels comfortable playing without his teammate and coach by his side.

***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan**

The novel, introduced with the fairytale-like story of Otto and the prophecy of a harmonica, transitions to the lives of Friedrich in WWII Germany, Mike, an orphan in 1935 Great Depression Pennsylvania, and Ivy on the WWII home front in 1942 California all impacted by the history of their times, a harmonica, and the power of music.

***Frenzy* by Robert Lettrick**

Frenzy is a fast paced thrilling story with an apocalyptic feel. Heath and his friends are left to defend themselves and survive a ravenous disease that has taken over the surrounding wild animals that live in the forest of Camp Harmony. The summer camp residents are forced to turn to one other and remain alive through the FRENZY!

***The Honest Truth* by Dan Gemeinhart**

Mark leaves home with only two things: a duffel bag and his dog, Beau. He is determined to fulfill his lifelong dream of climbing Mount Ranier. But, Mark is sick, and he's sick and tired of the treatments he has to receive for his illness. The story of Mark's journey is told alternately from Mark's point of view, and that of his best friend, Jessie, who's been sworn to secrecy about Mark's whereabouts.

***Insignia* by S.J. Kincaid**

When fourteen year old Tom first enters an elite military division during the middle of WWII, his biggest achievement is his prowess at virtual reality games, his killer instinct in gambling and a spelling bee he lied about winning. But this may just be the perfect combination to win the war... if he agrees to submit to the unique and top secret conditions of becoming a space-age warrior. Tom has always wanted to be someone important. But at what cost?

***The Luck Uglies* by Paul Durham**

Rye O'Chanter tries her best to follow the house rules, but mysterious things are happening in the Village Drowning. On the night of the Black Moon, Rye goes out to catch her cat and has a frightening encounter with a supposedly extinct Bog Noblin. Rye begins to unravel the secrets that she's been told about the village legends and the notorious society called the Luck Uglies.

***The Neptune Project* by Polly Holyoke**

In this dystopian adventure, the government is forcing citizens to leave the coasts to move inland to work in labor camps. Nere, who has always loved the water, and can communicate with dolphins, finds out that she and others have been genetically mutated to be able to breathe underwater. With danger following at every turn, will the Neptune Children escape the government's clutches and begin a new human colony in the ocean as they were designed to do?

***Nickel Bay Nick* by Dean Pitchford**

The town of Nickel Bay has given up hope. Nickel Bay Nick a local Good Samaritan who hides hundred-dollar bills around town each Christmas season has abandoned them. Sam Brattle is feeling the abandonment more than others. His dad's bakery is on the brink of bankruptcy, his mother has a new family and he has fallen in with the wrong crowd. But then, one night changes Sam's life forever...

***The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy* by Nikki Loftin**

Splendid Academy, a new school in Lorelei's neighborhood, almost seems too good to be true. With a fantastic playground, gourmet food, and optional homework, this school seems like every kid's dream! That is, until Lorelei discovers that the school is hiding a sinister secret in this Hansel and Gretel twist.

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books (SSYRA)

***The Summer I Saved the World in 65 Days* by Michele Weber Hurwitz**

Thirteen-year-old Nina begins her summer vacation by doing a random act of kindness for a neighbor. When she sees how well received this kind gesture is, she decides to spend her summer vacation secretly doing 64 more good deeds for her neighbors, friends and family (one good deed for every day of vacation). Will her random acts of kindness change the world or backfire in ways she never dreamed?

***The Tapper Twins Go To War (With Each Other)* by Geoff Rodkey**

No one can agree on how the war between twelve-year old twins Claudia and Reese Tapper began, but...IT.IS.ON! Claudia and Reese both try to out-prank, outsmart and out-embarrass each other in this hilarious tale of the love/hate relationship between siblings.

***Turn Left at the Cow* by Lisa Bullard**

Thirteen-year-old Trav heads to rural Minnesota to uncover the mystery of his deceased dad. When he learns of an unsolved bank robbery and that his father is connected to it, Trav sets out to unravel the mystery and finds more than he expected.

***The Worst Class Trip Ever* by Dave Barry**

Who doesn't love an overnight field trip? When Wyatt and his class fly from Miami to Washington D.C., Wyatt's best friend Matt suspects two passengers on the plane are up to no good. Determined to stop them, Wyatt and his friends find themselves in a world of trouble and a chase through the streets of the nation's capital. With each passing moment the stakes get higher as the friends dodge bad guys, the secret service, and their teacher.

**Although the books on the SSYRA reading list are recommended by the Florida Association of Media in Education and is a reputable list for recommended reading, the inclusion of any book does not imply endorsement by the Martin County School District. Some books may not be appropriate for all students, so parents are encouraged to be involved with their child's reading adventure and assist in his/her book selections. Books on the list do not need to be purchased unless you choose to do so.*

Assignments are aligned to the following standards:

RL.1.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.1.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments

RL.1.3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

W.2.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.



Step 2: Complete the following Journal Entries to show you understanding of the book.

Please complete the following assignment based on the book you chose.

- ✓ This can be done digitally or by hand.
- ✓ For all three journal entries, you are to write as though *you are the main character*.
- ✓ Explain your situation in *at least 2 paragraphs* and be sure to include *evidence from the text*.

Journal Entry One: Writing as the main character, describe your situation (exposition) at the beginning of the story. What is going on?

Journal Entry Two: Writing as the main character, explain: the problem you face (conflict), OR your best character trait, OR your relationship with another character.

Journal Entry Three: Writing as the main character, explain what happens at the end of the story (resolution).



Step 3: Complete the Mini project: Book Jacket

Please complete the following assignment based on the book you chose. This can be done digitally or by hand.

- Fold a sheet of paper like it's a hard cover book jacket.
- On the cover create/include an illustration that will help to describe the main events from the story.
- On the inside flap write a minimum of a one paragraph detailed description of the main characters, with examples from the text.
- On the inside back flap write a minimum of a one paragraph detailed description of the central problem or conflict in the story, with examples from the text.
- On the back cover write a minimum of a one paragraph detailed review of the book. Be sure to be specific when referencing events and character names.

Scoring—

Journal Entries and Book Jacket

CATEGORY	4 The student response accurately demonstrates with higher level :	3 The student response accurately demonstrates:	2 The student response partially demonstrates:	1 The student response does not demonstrate:
Comprehension Key Ideas/Details Text-Based Evidence (What the response states)	Understanding of the text, relevant details, Specific text-based examples and citations, Support of reader's examples	Understanding of the text, relevant details, Specific text-based examples and citations, Support of reader's examples	Understanding of the text, relevant details, Specific text-based examples and citations, Support of reader's examples	Understanding of the text, relevant details, Specific text-based examples and citations, Support of reader's examples
Development of Ideas (How the response is organized)	Awareness of task, purpose, audience, Effectively applies key vocabulary, Clear reasoning, Logical organization	Awareness of task, purpose, audience, Effectively applies key vocabulary, Clear reasoning, Logical organization	Awareness of task, purpose, audience, Effectively applies key vocabulary, Clear reasoning, Logical organization	Awareness of task, purpose, audience, Effectively applies key vocabulary, Clear reasoning, Logical organization
Conventions of Writing (How the response looks)	Clear presentation, Command of grammar, mechanics, usage	Clear presentation, Command of grammar, mechanics, usage	Clear presentation, Command of grammar, mechanics, usage	Clear presentation, Command of grammar, mechanics, usage
Front Cover	Illustration, title of the book, and author's name. Font and colors fit the emotional content of the book. The graphic illustrates the main events from the book.	Includes an illustration, title of the book, and author's name. The graphic illustrates some scene from the book.	Includes an illustration, title of the book, and author's name.	Does not include illustration, title, AND/OR author's name.
Back Cover	Review details specific events and character names. More than two paragraphs in length.	Review details specific events and character names. Two paragraphs in length.	Review is one paragraph and references a specific event or character.	Review is one paragraph, but is not specific and detailed.
Inside Front Flap	Two or more paragraphs with detailed descriptions of main characters, with examples from the text.	One paragraph with detailed descriptions of main characters, with examples from the text.	One paragraph with brief descriptions of main characters, with examples from the text.	One paragraph with brief descriptions of main characters, but no text examples.
Inside Back Flap	Two or more paragraphs with detailed description of the central problem or conflict in the story with examples from the text.	One paragraph with detailed description of the central problem or conflict in the story with examples from the text.	One paragraph with brief description of the central problem or conflict in the story with text examples.	One paragraph with detailed description of the central problem or conflict in the story, but not text examples.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

