

7th GRADE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2019

PART I: WRITING

Write a one page, double-spaced, typed autobiography -- please stay within these limits. You may approach the assignment any way you wish. Focus the writing around your identity. The only restriction on content, aside from length, is that the first two words of the first paragraph must be "I am...."

Please bring this printed autobiography with you on the first day of school.

PART II: READING

You must read at least two books over the summer. One of the books must be a work of historical fiction. For suggestions, see the booklist below. Most of these are works of historical fiction where the events occur sometime between the years of exploration (approximately 1492) and the end of the Civil War (1865). These take place in North or South America or Europe.

As you read your historical fiction book, you should focus on tracking the characterization and development of one character (either the main character or an important character that you have a lot of information about -- even the antagonist).

Annotate in your book or use post-its to take notes on important details and moments that show **who your character is** and **how he/she develops throughout the novel**.

Character Analysis Assignment

Complete the attached "Character Analysis Worksheet" (there are two sides to this worksheet) for the character from your historical fiction book. Fill in all the information that you have from your book (for example, if your character's religion is not included in the book, then you do not need to answer that bullet).

You will need to bring this to class during the first week of school.

When choosing an historical fiction novel, be sure it meets the requirements of our time period -- 1492 through 1865 (the end of the Civil War). If you are unsure as to whether or not a book is appropriate, choose one from the list below. These books are suggestions. Please do not come in September having spent time and effort reading and recording information on a book that will not be acceptable.

Please do not read Chains (by Laurie Halse Anderson), Lord of the Flies (by William Golding), or Twelve Angry Men (by Reginald Rose) as these are our class texts.

HISTORICAL FICTION BOOKS

Alcott, Louisa May	any title
Avi	True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
Blackwood, Gary	The Year of the Hangman
Cooper, James Fenimore	any title
Collier, James and Chris	My Brother Sam is Dead
Crane, Stephen	Red Badge of Courage
Curtis, Christopher Paul	Elijah of Buxton
Fast, Howard	April Morning
Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain
Fox, Paula	The Slave Dancer
Hesse, Karen	The Stowaway
Lasky, Kathryn	True North
Mitchell, Margaret	Gone with the Wind
Paterson, Katherine	Lyddie
Paulsen, Gary	Sarny
Paulsen, Gary	Nightjohn
Petry, Ann	Tituba of Salem Village
Rinaldi, Ann	Amelia's War
Speare, Elizabeth	The Witch of Blackbeard Pond
Twain, Mark	Any title.

OTHER SUGGESTED TITLES

Anderson, M. T.	The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing
Armstrong, Jennifer	Steal Away
Austen, Jane	any title

Beatty, Patrick	Be Ever Hopeful, Hanna Lee
Blackwood, Gary	The Year of the Hangman
Brink, Coral Ryrie	Caddie Woodlawn
Bronte, Charlotte	any title
Burgess, Melvin	Burning Issy
Draper, Sharon	Copper Sun
Peck, Richard	The River Between Us
Rees, Celia	Pirates

Name: _____

Character Analysis Worksheet

Complete the following chart with information on the main character from your historical fiction summer reading book. Answers should be in note-form—complete sentences are unnecessary.

Character's Name: _____ Book _____

Title: _____

What is his/her role in story?	
Provide a physical description. Some things to think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• age, height, weight, hair, skin, physique• facial features• clothing• grooming• distinguishing features or habits, mannerisms• voice	
Provide some background information. Some things to think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethnicity• Education• Religion• Personal experience• Occupation, work experience• Residence	
What do other people notice about her/him? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• striking outside characteristics• personality• behavior	

<p>How would you describe his or her personality traits and character?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strongest character trait• Weakest character trait• Philosophy—how s/he sees life• Morals—how s/he sees right and wrong• His/her mood a majority of the time	
<p>Is there a significant event that molded the character's personality? Explain.</p>	
<p>What are the important relationships in his/her life? Describe those relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best friend• Other friends• Family• Enemies	
<p>What does the character want that he/she is not getting? What prevents the character from getting what he or she wants? (for ex, him/herself, someone else, or an outside force such as society or nature)</p>	
<p>EXTRA CREDIT: In the character's own words: something the character says which is illustrative of her/his self-perception [awareness of yourself]. Explain how the quote illustrates this self-perception. Include a page number.</p>	
