

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT EIGHTH GRADE 2022

READING

Read at least THREE books of your choice this summer.

Complete a 3x5 card (example below) for each book.

Your first and last name

Title of the book

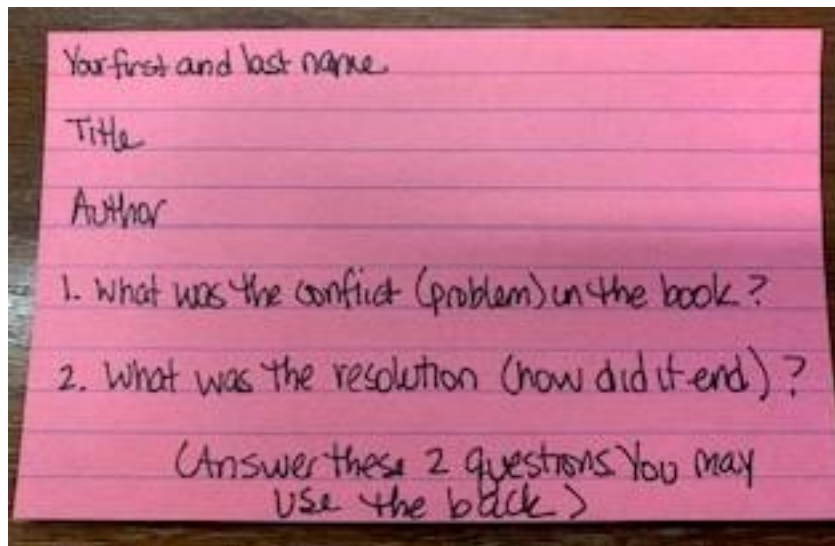
Author of the book

Answer the following two questions. You can use the back of the card too.

1. What was the conflict (problem) in the book?
2. What was the resolution (how did it end)?

These will be collected at the start of the year. In addition, at the start of the school year, you will have to reference the books in your first writing assignment.

If you are looking for suggestions, look at the Summer Reading List.



WRITING

1. Read the following vignette from Sandra Cisneros' novella *The House on Mango Street*, titled "My Name."
2. This piece is from the perspective of a girl named Esperanza who is your age. Following Esperanza's example, please write your own vignette.
 - approximately 250 words
 - about your own name and your family's name

- Include fun facts about yourself, like what has FASCINATED you this summer (music, film, food, insects, travel, etc.)
- Be prepared to share your vignette in class as a way to begin to introduce yourselves to your new classmates

“My Name” from *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. It is like the number nine. A muddy color. It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.

It was my great-grandmother's name and now it is mine. She was a horse woman too, born like me in the Chinese year of the horse--which is supposed to be bad luck if you're born female—but I think this is a Chinese lie because the Chinese, like the Mexicans, don't like their women strong.

My great-grandmother. I would've liked to have known her, a wild horse of a woman, so wild she wouldn't marry. Until my great-grandfather threw a sack over her head and carried her off. Just like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it.

And the story goes she never forgave him. She looked out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn't be all the things she wanted to be. Esperanza. I have inherited her name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.

At school they say my name funny as if the syllables were made out of tin and hurt the roof of your mouth. But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something, like silver, not quite as thick as sister's name Magdalena--which is uglier than mine. Magdalena who at least can come home and become Nenny. But I am always Esperanza. I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees. Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X. Yes. Something like Zeze the X will do.