

## El Paso Country Day School - Summer 2009 Reading List - For Grades 6 – 8

### **Read THREE (3) Books**

Two (2) from the list below and one (1) of your choice with the approval of Ms. Glenda Diamond-Ramirez

#### **RISING SIXTH, SEVENTH, & EIGHTH GRADERS (Read 2 FROM LIST):**

- ◆ Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
- ◆ Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland – Lewis Carroll
- ◆ Illustrated Man, The – Ray Bradbury
- ◆ Around the World in Eighty Days – Jules Verne
- ◆ Mutiny on the Bounty – Charles & J. N. Hall Nordhoff
- ◆ Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, The – Robert Louis Stevenson
- ◆ Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A – Betty Smith
- ◆ War of the Worlds H. G. Wells
- ◆ 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea – Jules Verne
- ◆ Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
- ◆ Count of Monte Cristo – Alexandre Dumas
- Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde

You must choose one of the following book report projects **for each book** you read this summer. Do not choose the same type of project for more than one book. Consider the projects carefully, so you are able to choose the most appropriate project for each book. Your work must be done in a Word document, Times News Roman, 12 pt. Font. You must submit a hardcopy of your work. These assignments will be the first grades entered for the 2008-2009 school year. Each book report is a separate grade. Enjoy your reading!

1. Write a small newspaper or newsletter (2-3 pages minimally) based on the characters and events in the book. Before you start, take a good look at a newspaper. You will notice that there are several sections including the “A” section, which covers major, important news stories that might be local, national, or international. The “A” section also has the editorial and opinion section. Other sections include lifestyle, entertainment (movies, concerts, reading materials, reviews), and fashion, to name a few items. There is a sports section, classified section, obituary section, advertising, and more.

To represent your book, create a newspaper with several sections. Write news and feature articles, as well as advertising, obituaries, or whatever else applies to the novel you have read. Having this assignment in mind as you read, you should take notes on what you want to include in your newspaper. Have fun!

2. Create an illustrated cartoon (“comic”) book retelling the novel you read. It will be considerably shorter than the novel, but make it long enough to tell the important parts and elements of the story. Be sure to have a beginning, middle, and end. Have well-developed characters, setting, and plot.
3. Tell the story in a picture book, much like a children’s book. You would have a picture on each page with about 6 lines of writing on the page; or you could have a picture on one page with text on the opposite page. You may write the story for a younger reading audience (ages 7 – 10).
4. Create a board game based on the book. Be sure that the game illustrates the story. In telling your English teacher about the game, you will clearly show you have read and understood the book.

5. Create a cereal box based on the novel you have read. The front of the box must have the story-related name of the cereal, as well as cereal pieces that reflect the story or characters. On one side of the box, list the characters with descriptions of them. Also include an ingredients list that describe the story (10 % suspense). On the other side of the box, write a summary of the story. A summary includes the beginning, middle, and end of the story. On the back of the box, have games, puzzles, and activities that relate to the story. Be creative. Finding a maze online or making a word search of simple vocabulary is not sufficient. Include a “prize” in the box (mentioned on the box, not a real prize inside). On the boxtop, put the name of the book, its author, and some item like a coupon. Do not go to a movie or game site of the book to print already-made pictures.
6. Write a short story that illustrates the point of the book, its theme or lesson learned. Develop your characters and setting well. Resolve your story – no “and then I woke up” endings! Your story should be at least 500 words. Do not exceed 1500 words. Have fun!
7. Write an interview with the protagonist or antagonist of the story you read. Pretend you are the character and you are being interviewed by a well-known talk show host. Write interesting, in-depth questions and answers. Be sure to answer the questions in character. You should have at least 20 good questions and responses.
8. Complete the following for the novel you read:
  - A. In your own words, write a chapter summary for every chapter. Each summary should be between 5 and 10 sentences in length.
  - B. Describe each character and the basic setting. These descriptions should be 5 to 10 sentences in length.
  - C. Write 20 words from the book that are new to you. If you do not find 20 new words, include words you find fun or interesting. Define the words.
  - D. Explain the theme of the novel, what the author wanted you to learn from the story. Write a well-developed paragraph of at least 10 sentences that identifies the theme and explain how the theme is shown in the story. What happens that illustrates the theme? Here are some examples of theme:

Love	Innocence
Family	Guilt
War	Freedom
Individuality	Authority
Adolescents	Dreams
Success	Choices
Religion/Faith	Death
Heroism	Beginnings
Challenge	

Think what the book has to say about the general theme and explain it thoroughly.

**REMEMBER!**

**You must READ three (3) books and do three (3) DIFFERENT projects.**

**You will adhere to the honor system and will sign that you have READ the three books.**