Students entering 8th grade are required to read TWO books of choice, one fiction (narrative) and one nonfiction (informational). It is expected that all books chosen are appropriate for the student’s reading (or Lexile) level.

Please review the assignments for each book below. *Assignments may be handwritten or typed.*

Both summer reading assignments are **mandatory** and will count toward your first quarter grade in Language and Literature.

Due: Monday, September 16, 2019

**Fiction (Narrative) Assignment**

In literature, a **theme** is a broad lesson or message the author is trying to teach or express to readers through the text. This lesson can be about life, society or human nature.

**Example:** One theme of John Steinbeck’s *The Pearl* could be the idea that greed for material possessions can consume the human spirit and cause conflict and tragedy.

**After reading the text, please complete the following prompts:**

- What is one theme that the author is trying to convey (show) through the text?
- Clearly identify one theme of the book in one complete sentence.
- Next, select two incidents (events or moments) from the text where the theme is displayed.
- Write a paragraph for each incident explaining how the author uses that incident to convey the theme. Please include page numbers on which incidents occur in the book.
- This response will be two to three paragraphs in length.

**Model Fiction Assignment Response using *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**

Below is an example of what your fiction summer reading response can look like.
- The full statement of a theme is highlighted, with the actual theme underlined.
- Quotations (cited evidence) have been bolded and colored blue.
One theme of John Steinbeck’s The Pearl could be the idea that greed for material possessions can consume the human spirit and cause conflict and tragedy.

One incident through which the author conveys this theme, that greed can consume and cause conflict, is after Kino attempts to sell the pearl in the city. When Kino is told that his pearl is “fool’s gold” (p. 49), he begins to grow frustrated, angry and distrustful of people around him. The pearl is beginning to cause conflict in Kino’s life. Juana says, “Kino, this pearl is evil. Let us destroy it before it destroys us” (p. 56). Kino, who always valued his family above anything else, responds by arguing. “No… I will fight this thing. I will win over it. We will have our chance” (p. 57). The pearl is beginning to “destroy” Kino and his family, causing Kino to lose sight of what is most important to him. His greed for selling the pearl for as much money as possible only causes conflict, not only with his wife but with his community. Shortly after this incident, Kino attempts to protect the pearl and kills a man in a physical conflict, causing him to have to flee and lose his home.

A second incident that the author uses to convey the theme that greed can consume and cause tragedy is the climax of the story. After killing a man, Kino, Juana and Coyotito flee on foot. Early in the story, the author describes Kino’s feelings toward his family, stating, “...this is safety, this is warmth, this is the Whole” (p. 3). Family is more important than anything to Kino. Later, when the trackers catch up to fleeing Kino and his family, tragedy ensues, caused by Kino’s greed for the material possessions of money and the pearl. Coyotito is accidentally shot and killed. “Something was wrong... He knew the sound - the keening, moaning, rising hysterical cry from the little cave in the side of the stone mountain, the cry of death” (p. 87). Kino’s spirit had been so consumed by his greed that he lost his only son, shattering his family, the ultimate tragedy. If Kino had not been so greedy and recognized the pearl as dangerous early on, a cause of “the evil limbs of greed and hatred and coldness” (p. 43), Kino would not have experienced the level of conflict and tragedy that occurred in the end.

Fiction Assignment Scoring Rubric
Nonfiction (Informational) Assignment

After reading the text, please respond to each of the three prompts below. Each prompt focuses on a different reading strategy: asking questions, making connections and using inferencing skills to make an evaluation.

- Each response will be at least a paragraph in length (at least three paragraphs total).

- You are required to use a different line or passage from the text for each prompt.

1. Ask a Question - Identify and reflect on a line or passage from the text that is unclear to you. You may focus on a line or passage that was unclear or confusing while you were reading but later became clear OR you may focus on a line or passage that remains unclear even after finishing the book. Please explain your confusion and write reflectively, sharing your thoughts. You may use the prompts below:

   - Why is the passage unclear or confusing?
   - What are some possible meanings of the passage? Explain.
   - Did the passage make you question a choice made by a person in the text? Why?
   - What predictions or other thoughts do you have about the passage? Explain.
2. **Make a Connection** - Identify a second line or passage from the text and explain in detail a connection you made to it. You may connect the text to your personal life (text-to-self), another text (text-to-text) or a current or past world event (text-to-world). Please explain your connection and write reflectively, sharing your thoughts. You may use the prompts below:

- How does the passage remind you of something else?
- Go deep! What are some thoughts and emotions (of people and/or characters) on both sides of the connection? How do these thoughts and emotions make the connection more meaningful to you?
- How does this connection make the text more meaningful or interesting to you, the reader?

3. **Make an Evaluation** - Identify a third line or passage from the text that allowed you to make a judgement or learn something about an event, the author or a person in the text. Please explain your evaluation and write reflectively, sharing your thoughts. You may use the prompts below:

- How did actions and/or words reveal something new about the author or a person in the text? Explain in detail.
- What are your thoughts about what you have learned through this passage? Explain.

Nonfiction Assignment Scoring Rubric

Each response will be scored separately using the rubric below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accurate use of reading strategy</strong></td>
<td>Student has complete understanding of how to use this reading strategy.</td>
<td>Student has an accurate understanding of how to use this reading strategy.</td>
<td>Student has some understanding of how to use this reading strategy.</td>
<td>Student has limited understanding of how to use this reading strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence from the text</strong></td>
<td>All of the examples from text are relevant and are thoroughly explained and analyzed.</td>
<td>Some of the examples from text are relevant and are adequately explained and analyzed.</td>
<td>A few of the examples from text are relevant and explanation needs strengthening.</td>
<td>Examples included are irrelevant to use as support.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>