

CCS Summer Reading Assignment

Rising 8th Grade Students

Your assignment is to read one of the following novels and complete one of the essay prompts listed below.

Novels:

- *The Railway Children* – by E. Nesbit
- *I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001 (any in the series)* – by Lauren Tarshis
- *The City of Ember* – by Jeanne DuPrau
- *So Not Okay: Mean Girls Makeover* – by Nancy Rue
- *Fever 1793* – by Laurie Halse Anderson

Essay Prompts:

- *Option 1:* Literature often depicts characters caught between colliding cultures—national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional, etc. Such collisions can call a character's sense of identity into question. Using one of the above literary works in which a character responds to such a cultural collision, write a well-organized essay describing the character's response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.
- *Option 2:* A recurring theme in literature is the classic war between a passion and responsibility. For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty. Choose one of the above literary works in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. In a well-written essay, show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects upon the character, and the significance to the work.
- *Option 3:* In a literary work, characters are often surrounded by an opposite type of character, known as a *foil*. These foil characters possess traits that emphasize the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character by contrast or comparison. For example, the ideas or behavior of a foil character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of another character. Choose one of the above literary works in which a character serves as a foil for the main character and write a well-organized essay which analyzes how the relation between the two characters illuminates one or more themes of the work.

Keep in mind, your essay:

- must be at least 5 paragraphs in length (introduction, 3 body paragraphs, and conclusion). You may have more than 5 if you see fit.
- must include a thesis statement, which succinctly expresses your main argument. Your thesis should be based on the essay prompt and should include your 3 main points.
- must give at least 3 specific textual examples, which support your thesis – 1 minimum per body paragraph – along with page numbers in parentheses for citation.
- should be free of grammatical and spelling errors. Upload your essay to grammarly.com prior to turning it in.
- must be in MLA format (typed, 12 point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with a proper heading) (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>)

Please note:

Your responses should be 100% your own. You may not reference the internet or any other source outside of your brain in answering the prompt. To do so would be plagiarism and will result in no extra credit.

This is an OPTIONAL assignment. Students may complete up to two reading and essay assignments for extra credit. Students who successfully complete the reading assignment(s) will receive one percentage point per assignment (maximum of 2) added to the final grade for the first quarter in Language Arts. The completed assignment and summer reading pledge are due to the Language Arts teacher on the first day of school.

**CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SUMMER READING PLEDGE**

Name: _____ **Grade Entering:** _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

- I have read this entire book.
- I have never read this book before this summer.
- No one has helped me in the preparation of the summer reading assignment.

Student Signature

Date

- My student has completed the CCS summer reading assignment.

Parent Signature

Date