

A decorative border of tropical leaves in blue, orange, yellow, purple, and green surrounds a central dark blue circle.

RIISING GRADE 8

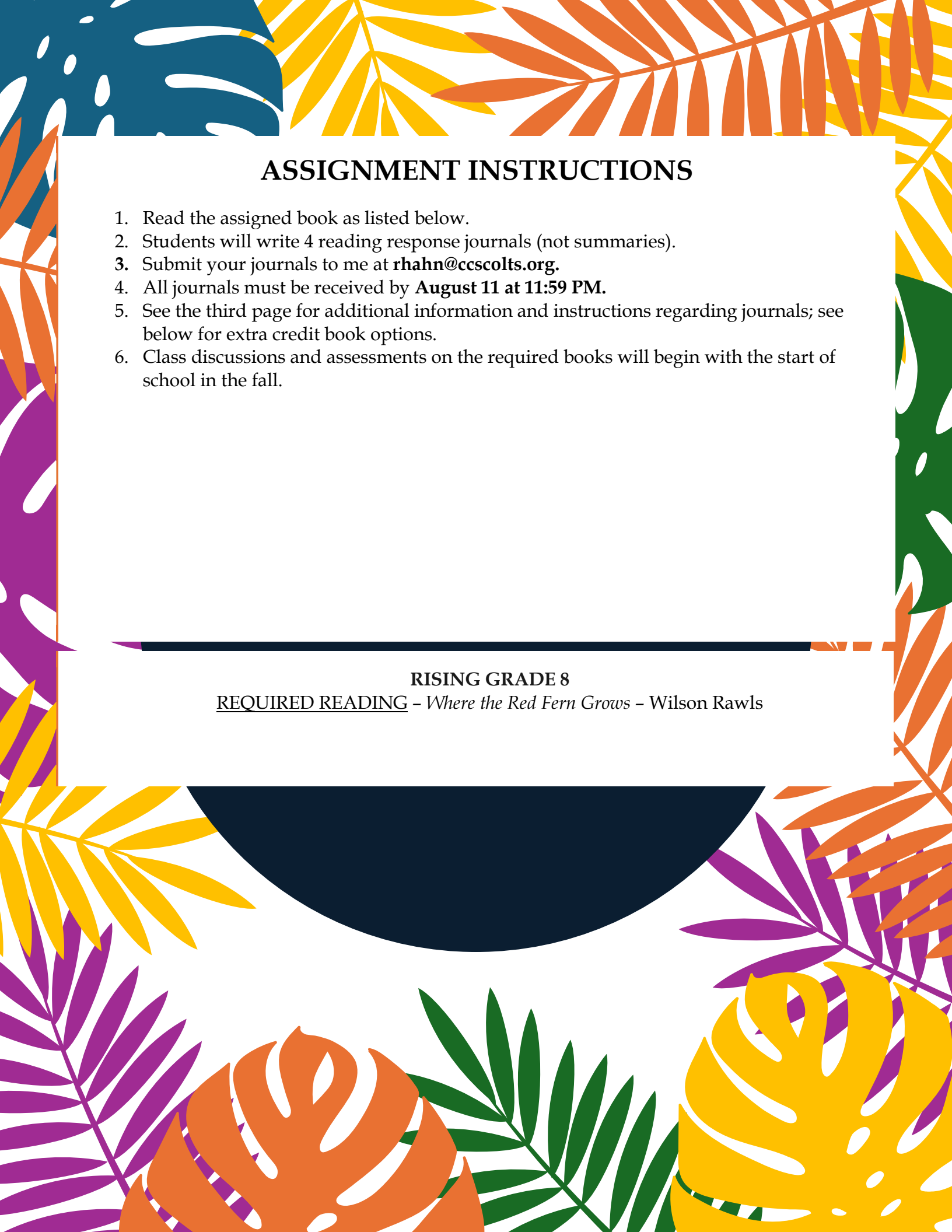
**CCS
SUMMER
READING**

DUE 8/11/2026

Why does the middle school have required summer reading at Crossroads Christian School?

- *Students can lose up to 25 percent of their reading level over the summer.*
- *Students can lose up to three months of their education over the summer.*
- *This loss is cumulative – so by the time a student enters high school or middle school, he or she could be years behind grade-level standards.*
- *This can be prevented – by reading! Reading just four books over the summer can prevent the summer slide and can actually increase a student's reading level.*

--Johns Hopkins University

A decorative border of various tropical leaves in blue, yellow, orange, purple, and green surrounds the central text area.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the assigned book as listed below.
2. Students will write 4 reading response journals (not summaries).
3. Submit your journals to me at **rhahn@ccscolts.org**.
4. All journals must be received by **August 11 at 11:59 PM**.
5. See the third page for additional information and instructions regarding journals; see below for extra credit book options.
6. Class discussions and assessments on the required books will begin with the start of school in the fall.

RISING GRADE 8

REQUIRED READING – *Where the Red Fern Grows* – Wilson Rawls

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READING RESPONSE JOURNALS

INSTRUCTIONS

Four journals will be written: one after you finish the first fourth of the book, one after you finish one half of the book, one after you finish three-fourths of the book, and one after you complete the book. NOTE: If your book does not have chapters, please break up the number of pages into four sections. I recommend marking each section with post-it flags in the beginning, as this will remind you to STOP AND WRITE. Each journal should be at least 2 paragraphs in length (minimum of 6 solid sentences). You can't be wrong in your responses, as these reflect your personal reactions to the text. Take some risks and be honest.

Use the sample prompts below to help you get started with expressing your likes/dislikes, confusion, and observations. **These prompts are suggestions, not requirements.** Tell me what you think something means. Make predictions about what might happen later. Use your personal experiences to connect with the plot, characters, setting, etc.

Sample Prompts:

- I really don't understand the part where...
- I really like/dislike this idea because...
- This character reminds me of somebody I know because...
- This character reminds me of myself because...
- I think this setting is important because...
- This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of book/movie/T.V. show) because...
- I like/dislike this writing because...
- This part is very realistic/unrealistic because...
- I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
- This section makes me think about...
- If I were (name of character) at this point, I would...
- I began to think of...
- I noticed...
- I'm not sure...
- I wish that...
- I was surprised...

Have a safe and restful summer! Contact me at rhahn@ccscolts.org with any questions.

Mrs. Rachel Hahn

