

Summer Reading Project Grade 8

Directions: Read each book choice and the choice of projects for each. A description of each book is on the back. Select one book and one project to complete for the book you read this summer. Please be prepared to present your project to the class. Due Thursday, September 6, 2018.

Choice One: *Wednesday Wars*

By Gary Schmidt

Choose one project to complete:

1. Create a hanging mobile about the main character Crispin. There should be at least five items on the mobile. Write an 5-6 sentence explanation on the back of each item why you included this item.
2. Create a comic strip of Crispin's escape from his tiny village to the world beyond. Provide at least nine frames of the important events that took place in the book. Include a caption about what is taking place in each frame. The comic should be detailed and colorful.
3. Create a "Life-Size Character". Create a "life-size" paper version of Holling Hoodhood. Add clothing and facial features to the "body". Now analyze the character focusing on the character's thoughts and feelings, looks, deeds, and actions. Write a paragraph about each of the above, cut out, and glue around your character's body.

Choice Two: *And Then There Were None*

By Agatha Christie

Choose one project to complete:

1. Imagine you are allowed to give one character some advice or words of wisdom. Write a friendly letter to a character from the book that offers wise advice that can help them in the novel. Be sure to use specific evidence from the novel to support your advice.
www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1083/lettersamples.pdf
2. Create a poster advertising the book. The poster should be no larger than 11 x 17. Include at least three pictures, a paragraph about the book, and a paragraph of your review of the book. The poster should be neat, detailed, and colorful. The paragraphs should be 5-7 sentences each.
3. Create a skit from a scene in the book. Write a script and act out the scene. You may video the skit and upload to the Google classroom or present your skit live. You may ask others to play other characters from the book. The skit should be approximately two minutes in length.

Choice Three: *The Outsiders*

By

Choose one project to complete:

1. Create a "Theme in a Bottle". Ponyboy wants to express and share what he has learned from his experience to help others understand important life lessons. Write a letter from his point of view. The letter should express his feelings about life lessons he learned throughout the novel. The letter should be two-three paragraphs in length. You may type or handwrite the letter. Decorate a two-liter bottle with symbols that relate to Ponyboy and the theme of the story. Curl the letter up and place inside the bottle making sure not to push it all the way down into the bottle.
2. Create a poster advertising the book. The poster should be no larger than 11 x 17. Include at least three pictures, a paragraph about the book, and a paragraph of your review of the book. The poster should be neat, detailed, and colorful. The

Choice Four: *Diary of a Young Girl*

By Anne Frank

Choose one project to complete:

1. Create a six page scrapbook about Anne Frank's life. Each page should focus on a part of her life. Each page should have at least one picture and a paragraph about this part of her life. The scrapbook should have a cover with a picture and your name.
2. Write a letter to Anne Frank discussing your thoughts about her courage during this time in history. Would you be able live as the Franks did in the attic? Discuss how Anne's diary has helped people see what happens during time of war. The letter should be in friendly letter format and be two paragraphs in length discussing the two points above. You may type or handwrite the letter. Friendly letter example:
www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1083/lettersamples.pdf

- paragraphs should be 5-7 sentences each.
3. Create a Word Cloud Collage of words or phrases from the novel that describe the novel. You may select to cover the entire novel or focus on a single element (character, setting, theme). The Word Collage should fill an 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper, be detailed, colorful, and neatly done. You may use wordclouds.com to create your collage.

3. Create a personal reflections diary. As you read the book, keep a journal of your thoughts and feelings as you read the book. Each diary entry should be 5-7 sentences in length. It may be typed or handwritten. Your final reflection diary should be a total of ten pages (paragraphs). Create a cover for your diary that includes a picture (drawn or clip art) and your name. Then bind your diary with staples, cord, or ribbon.

Summer Reading Project Book Descriptions - Grade 8

Choice One: *Wednesday Wars*

By Gary Schmidt

Gary D. Schmidt offers an unforgettable antihero in *The Wednesday Wars* — a wonderfully witty and compelling novel about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-68 school year.

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling — he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights. As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation — the Big M — in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

Choice Two: *And Then There Were None*

By Agatha Christie

In the novel, a group of people are lured into coming to an island under different pretexts, e.g., offers of employment, to enjoy a late summer holiday, or to meet old friends. All have been complicit in the deaths of other human beings, but either escaped justice or committed an act that was not subject to legal sanction. The guests and two servants who are present are "charged" with their respective "crimes" by a gramophone recording after dinner the first night, and informed that they have been brought to the island to pay for their actions.

Choice Three: *The Outsiders*

By S.E. Hinton

Ponyboy Curtis is a good-natured teen who loves books and movies. He's also an orphan whose two older brothers and street-smart friends guard and protect him. Together these ragtag, working-class boys, known as "greasers" to the locals, try to make their way in the world, without privilege, supervision, or education.

But it isn't easy. A bunch of wealthy kids, called the "Socs," target Ponyboy and his friends. They bully, mock, and ridicule the greasers. Until one night they push the greasers too far, and violence explodes. Now young Ponyboy has a decision to make: Does he run or does he stand his ground and try to find justice?

This realistic novel was written by a first-time teen author no older than the characters she depicted. The story remains as hard-hitting and important today as when it was published in 1967.

Choice Four: Anne Frank - *Diary of a Young*

***Girl* By Anne Frank**

Among the most powerful accounts of the Nazi occupation, "The Diary of Anne Frank" chronicles the life of Anne Frank, a thirteen-year old girl fleeing her home in Amsterdam to go into hiding. Anne reveals the relationships between eight people living under miserable conditions: facing hunger, threat of discovery and the worst horrors the modern world had seen. In these pages, she grows up to be a young woman and a wise observer of human nature. She shares an unparalleled bond with her diary, which holds a detailed account of Anne's close relationship with her father, the lack of daughterly love for her mother, admiration for her sister's intelligence and closeness with her friend Peter. Anne Frank's account offers a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman who turns thoughtful and learns of the many terrors of the world.