

## Summer Reading Book Lists Grade 8

### 8th GRADE

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne  
*Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne  
*Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry  
*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes  
*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie  
*Ribbons* by Lawrence Yep  
*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare  
*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Story by Washington Irving  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

### Summer Reading Assignments

- 1- Choose two books from the list to read over the summer.
- 2- You will do two assignments, one per book: one book report and one creative assignment.
- 3- Both assignments should be ready by the first day of school.
- 4- The first week of school will be spent in the presentations of your *creative assignments*.
- 5- Neatness and organization will be taken to account when grading. Assignments do not have to be typed, but it is highly recommended.
- 6- Use your own words at all times. Plagiarized work will be given an automatic 0.  
*\*You may only quote from your book if the assignment requires you to.*

**Creative Assignments:** Choose one for one book

#### Book Advertisement

Make a poster as an advertisement for your book, in which you will try to persuade your peers to read this book. This poster can be done in a traditional poster manner or virtually using Canva.com or Glogster.com. This project should include the basic elements of the story like title, author, genre, theme, characters, problem, etc. Make sure you add your favorite quote from the book and a preview of what happens in the book. You will also have to choose an excerpt from the book to read out loud when presenting your poster.

### Timeline

Make a timeline of your story in a poster and come ready to present to class. Your timeline should include the retelling of your story in chronological order. Make sure to include the elements of the story in the timeline: theme, characters, setting, problem, climax, and solution. Do not forget to add the title and author of the book as the title of your timeline.

### Scrapbook

Choose a character from the book and create a scrapbook about him or her. This scrapbook should include memorabilia, letters, photos, tickets, objects and pictures of things related to the character and their story. There should be a minimum of ten labeled items, and each should have an explanation of its significance and importance for the character. The scrapbook cover should include the title of the book and the name of the character.

### Presentation or Webpage

Design a digital presentation or a webpage for the book. This presentation should include all the basic elements of the story like: title, author, theme, genre, setting, characters, plot, conflict, solution and point of view. Include images, quotes and character analysis to show a clear understanding of the book.

**Book Report Assignments:** Choose one for one book.

### Reader's Journal

Write **five journal entries** as you are reading the book. The best way to do this is to divide the book in five sections before you start reading and when you get to the end of each section stop and write a journal entry. You can divide the sections using sticky notes or sticky note dividers. Each journal entry should include **at least two paragraphs**. In one you will discuss the main events of the section in your own words without using quotations, and in the other paragraph you will have to write your reaction to the section you just read. Your reaction should include what you think about the story from what you have read in that section: what you liked about it, what this section made you feel, what made you laugh or what surprised or confused you, etc. *\*For each journal entry write the number of the entry, and the pages and chapters included in each section. The book, with the 5 sections clearly identified, will have to be handed in along with the report on the first day of school.*

### Character Journal

After you have read the book choose a character from the book to write **5 journal entries** from this character's point of view. Choose five of the main events of the book that involved this character and write a reflection of each event from this character's point of view. These should be written in **first person** and should reflect the character's experience of the event. You can describe the event, what happened, and the way your character felt during and after the event. *Your journal entries should be two paragraphs long. Use your own words, no quotations!*

## Book Analysis

After reading the book, analyze the book using these 5 key elements: **setting**, **main character**, **secondary characters**, **climax/resolution**, and **personal response**. Label each part of your analysis in your paper, you can number them as shown below. Avoid using the same example more than once. Keep in mind you read a whole book, there are plenty of examples along the development of the text to be able to explain your ideas. Below is a description of what is expected for each section of your analysis.

1- **Setting**: Identify 3 different places where important actions take place, describe each place and what happens there.

2- **Main character**: Describe the main character of the book, mentioning the name, age, gender and personality. Give a recount of three different conflicts the character faces in the book.

3- **Secondary Characters**: Name and describe *two other characters* that have an important role in the book. Describe each character and their connection to the events in the book with one paragraph for each character.

4- **Climax/Resolution**: Write two paragraphs, one describing the turning point of the story and another one describing how things turn out for the characters in the story.

5- **Personal response**: This is the opportunity to give your opinion of the book. You can start by rating the book with a thumbs up or thumbs down and then explain why. What did you like or not like about the book? What were the most interesting and confusing parts? What did you think about the ending? Was it what you expected? As you give your opinion make sure to provide examples from the text that show your understanding of the text.