

Rising 7th Grade Language Arts Summer Reading Assignments

Welcome to 7th Grade Language Arts. I'm looking forward to a great school year with you! Below you will find your Summer Reading Assignments. **This work is due the first day of the new school year. Late work will not be accepted.** Please follow all instructions and be mindful of presentation; each page should be typed or neatly written in blue or black ink. This assignment will be a significant grade. Make sure your name and the title of the text is clearly printed on each sheet. Hard copies only will be accepted.

Texts (You must read both texts. We will be discussing them during the first week of school. It will be very obvious who has read and who hasn't.):

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Assignment 1 (You must complete this assignment for both texts):

Character List: For each text, you will keep a list of major characters including a thorough description and a quote from the text that you feel represents them. For each text, you should have a MINIMUM of six characters. Be sure to explain WHY the quote is representative of the character. Include the page number where you found the quote. Follow the format below to complete this portion of the assignment:

Character	Description	Quote
Atticus Finch	Atticus Finch is the father of Scout and Jem Finch. Atticus is a lawyer in a small town in Alabama called Maycomb. Atticus believes in treating everyone with the utmost respect. He believes it's important to defend a Black man because the courts are the one place where all men are treated equally. He wishes to cure the town of its disease: racism.	"First of all," he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view [...] until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Pg. 85 This quote represents Atticus because he makes an effort to really understand where other people are coming from. For example, when Walter Cunningham comes over, he engages him in a conversation about farming.

Assignment 2 (You must complete this assignment for both texts):

Short Answer Questions: After reading each text, answer the following questions in AT LEAST one full paragraph per question. A good paragraph is four or more sentences that answers all prompts. You must include a **quote** from the text and the **page** on which you found it for each response.

The Hobbit:

1. In the early part of the book, Bilbo says 'good morning' many times, but it doesn't always mean the same thing. Describe all the meanings of 'good morning' he uses.
2. Describe the dragons with as much detail as possible. Why are Dwarves susceptible to a dragon's spells?
3. How does Bilbo plan to stop a war from starting? How well does it work?
4. In what ways does Tolkien use humor in *The Hobbit*?
5. What is the fantasy genre and in what ways does *The Hobbit* fit the genre?

Fever 1793:

1. List three technological or medical advances since 1793 and tell how they could have changed the story.
2. Describe the point of the book when Mattie moves from being a child to being a young adult.
3. At the time, no one really knew the true cause of the yellow fever epidemic. What are some of the possible causes suggested by people in the book?
4. Based on what you know about Matilda's character and her experiences, describe what her "perfect day" would include.
5. During the story, the people of Philadelphia face many dangers including the risk of disease, starvation, robbery, and assault. Describe an incident in which Mattie faces one of these dangers and tell how she overcomes the danger.

Final Notes:

Please put forth your best effort on this assignment. It is very important that I get an authentic representation of your writing abilities at the start of the school year.

It is obvious when a student copies and pastes character descriptions or theme analyses from online sources. Copying any content will result in a grade of zero and a discipline referral.

Happy Reading!