

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Students entering 8th grade the fall of 2011 are required to read the *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and **one** of the novels from the list below, complete the assignments, and pass an AR test on each novel with an 80% or higher.

Assignments are due the first full day of school. Grades for both the assignments and completion of the AR tests are taken as two separate test grades.

Students can purchase their own copies of the novels at local bookstores or check them out from the public library. I do have copies of *Animal Farm* in the classroom library that can be checked out for the summer. In my personal classroom library, I have one copy of each of the title except those indicated below. Students are expected to treat the books with care and, if borrowed, return them in the good condition or replace the book.

Assignment for *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Use 4 x 6 lined note cards to complete this assignment.

1. Research information about the author, George Orwell. Summarize the author's life—birth, death, education, family, political convictions, and purpose for writing. Include a list of several other **novels** this author has written. (2-3 cards)
2. Write a description of the setting of the novel. (1 card)
3. Write a brief description of the following characters and a favorite quote for each character with page reference. (This will take several cards. Keep humans cards separate from animal cards):

The Animals

Major
Snowball
Napoleon
Squealer
Boxer
Mollie
Clover
Benjamin
Moses
Bluebell, Jessie, Pincher

The Humans

Mr. Jones
Mrs. Jones
Mr. Whymer
Mr. Pilkington
Mr. Frederick

4. List the conflicts and resolutions in the story. (2-3 cards)

Use complete sentences for all parts of this assignment.

List of titles for Summer Reading Assignment

PG Note: Some of the books on this list contain teenage or adult issues and situations. Please respect your family's wishes about appropriate books as you would about film choices and internet sites.

Title	Author
<i>Speak</i>	Laura Anderson
<i>Whale Talk</i>	Christopher Crutcher
<i>Lifted Up by Angels</i>	Lurlene McDaniel
<i>Crosses</i>	Shelley Stohr
<i>Define "Normal"</i>	Julie Ann Peters
<i>Life in the Fat Lane</i>	Cherie Bennett
<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	John Green
<i>When She Hollers</i>	Cynthia Voight
<i>Where the Lilies Bloom</i>	Vera & Bill Cleaver
<i>Things Not Seen</i>	Andrew Clements
<i>Pigman's Legacy</i>	Paul Zindel
<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>	Daniel Keyes
<i>The Lovely Bones</i>	Alice Sebold

Attached are the two assignments—Character Chart and Book Parts—for this part of the reading assignment.

Character Poster

Realistic Fiction

What you'll need:

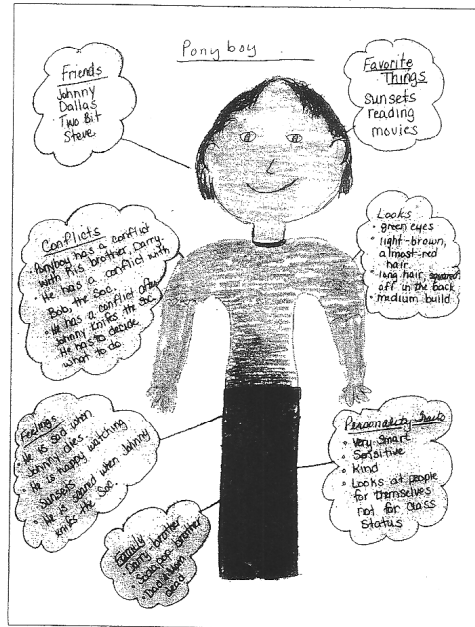
9-by-18-inch sheet of white construction paper, colored pencils or markers

Steps:

- 1 Choose a character from your book.
- 2 Use information from the book to draw and color a picture of your character on the construction paper. Add a label with the character's name.
- 3 Around the outside of the character, draw six circles or shapes in which to write information about the character. **Write** about the character's friends, conflicts, feelings, personality traits, and appearance. Think of one more category that would help you share important information about your character.
- 4 On the back of your Character Poster, explain one connection you can make with the character.

Grading Criteria

Illustration	10 points
Adequate supporting details	15 points
Connection	10 points
Organization	5 points
Followed directions	5 points
Neat/colorful	5 points
	50 points



Book Parts

What you'll need:

Book Parts sheet (page 74)

Steps: Use complete sentences.

1 Use the Book Parts sheet to describe a situation or event from your book that fits with each heading (Saddest, Funniest, Most Unbelievable, Most Embarrassing, Happiest).

2 On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph giving your personal reaction to each of these parts.

Grading Criteria

Adequate supporting details	20 points
Personal reaction	25 points
Followed directions	5 points
	<hr/> 50 points

Name: Gabe Date: March 12

Book Title: The Outsiders Author: S.E. Hinton

	The saddest part of the book was when Johnny died after saving the children from the burning church.
	The funniest part of <u>The Outsiders</u> was when Cherry Valence smiled that whole time because she was so beautiful.
	The most unbelievable part was when Johnny helped Bob, the S.E., and killed him.
	An embarrassing moment for Ponyboy is when he starts crying after the realization that Johnny killed the S.E.
	The best of the book is going to about a happier chapter in Ponyboy's life. The realization when he wants to die when he gets older.

Book Parts

Book _____

Name _____ Date _____

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Saddest Part	
Funniest Part	
Most Unbelievable Part	
Most Embarrassing Part	
Happiest Part	