

## Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading & Writing on Edmodo

### Why?

- Numerous research studies indicate that summer reading helps students maintain or even increase reading skills developed during the school year. Students that do not read over the summer often show a decrease in their reading comprehension and fall behind as soon as the school year begins.

### What?

- Students are **required to read and write responses via Edmodo for:**
  - 1 book, although for honors classes we recommend reading at least 2 books (must be completed by Fri, Aug 19)
  - 1 article and 1 poem by Thursday, June 30
  - 1 article and 1 poem by Sunday, July 31
- Students may read any book/article/poem they want as long as:
  - it is reading-level appropriate
  - they have never read the book/article/poem before
- Don't know where to start? See the bottom of this sheet for recommendations.

### How Do I Submit My Written Responses?

- Go to Edmodo.com or use the Edmodo app to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Summer Reading Group using the **access code hr8hb6**.
- Look at the prompt at the bottom of this sheet **BEFORE** you start reading so you know what details to note as you read.
- Be sure to include the title and author of the book(s)/articles/poems you read.**
- Responses must be typed with correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. Follow the directions carefully. **Your responses will be part of your first quarter grade in August.**
- Email Mr. Cooper at [jcooper@shlutheran.org](mailto:jcooper@shlutheran.org) if you have lost/forgotten/need your Edmodo login information.
- If your computer is broken or you do not have Internet access, please plan ahead to use the computer at your local library, a family member's house, or a friend's house. A broken computer or lack of a computer does **not** excuse you from the summer reading & writing.

### When?

- Responses for 1 poem and 1 article **due Thursday, June 30**.
- Responses for the second poem and second article **due Sunday, July 31**.
- Response for book(s) **due Friday, August 19**.
- Required responses will be part of each student's first quarter grade.
- Please plan ahead with your reading and give yourself plenty of time to respond to the prompts. Don't procrastinate!

## Recommendations

You can read any book(s), articles, or poems you choose as long as they are reading-level appropriate and you have NOT read them before. However, here are some recommendations if you don't know where to begin.

### Books

#### Fiction

- Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt - realistic fiction, coming-of-age (ISBN # 978-0544022805)
- Brainjack* by Brian Falkner - science-fiction (ISBN # 978-0-375-84367-9)
- Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl* by John Feinstein - mystery, sports fiction – (ISBN # 978-0440422051)
- Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer - realistic fiction, coming-of-age (ISBN # 978-0142404249)

#### Non-Fiction

- Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson - history (ISBN #978-0-545-22091-0)
- I Am A SEAL Team Six Warrior: Memoirs of An American Soldier* by Howard E. Wasdin – military, current events (ISBN # 978-1-250-016430)
- Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, & Fighting to Get Back on the Board* by Bethany Hamilton - adventure (ISBN 978-1416503460)
- Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations* by Alex Harris – self-improvement (ISBN # 978-1-601-421128)
- You Were Made To Make A Difference* by Max Lucado & Jena Lucado Bishop – Christian inspiration (ISBN # 978-1-400-316007)

### Articles

Search [smithsonianmag.com](http://smithsonianmag.com), [wired.com](http://wired.com), [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com), [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com). These websites sort articles by categories, so choose a category that interests you to find an appealing article. The article you choose should be several paragraphs, not simply a slideshow or 1-2 paragraphs.

### Poems

Search [www.poetryoutloud.com](http://www.poetryoutloud.com), [www.favoritepoem.org](http://www.favoritepoem.org), [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org), [www.loc.gov/poetry/180/](http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/), or [www.poetryfoundation.org/resources/children](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/resources/children). Choose a poem that speaks to you and your interests.

## Written Responses

Just think about and interact with the text you're reading. Write 3-5 paragraphs for the book(s) and 2-3 paragraphs for the articles/poems. In paragraph form, address questions such as: What did you like about the text (give examples)? What did you dislike about the text (give examples)? How can you link the text to your life? What is the central message or theme about the text? What quote or passage stood out and why? What are your thoughts about the writer's style? What type of person would you recommend this text to? Feel free to note other things as well.

Please contact me at [jcooper@shlutheran.org](mailto:jcooper@shlutheran.org) if you encounter any problems or have any questions.