

Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading & Writing

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 for:**
 - 2 books, 1 from the fiction list and 1 from the nonfiction list.

How Do I Submit My Written Responses?

- Type your response in a Google doc or an email. Share it with me at jcooper@shlutheran.org. When I receive your response I will reply that I've received it. If you do not get a reply within a couple of days, an error occurred and you should re-send your response.
- Look at the prompts 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 books 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 if you have any questions.
- 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?

- You can read the books and write your responses in any order, but responses for the first book are due by Friday, June 30 and responses for the second book are due by Monday, July 31.**
- 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!

Book Lists

Choose 1 fiction book AND 1 nonfiction book. You may read and complete the responses in any order, but you must finish by the due dates listed above.

Fiction

- Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt - realistic fiction, coming-of-age (ISBN # 978-0544022805)
- Legend* by Marie Lu – dystopian fiction (ISBN # 978-0142422076)
- Brainjack* by Brian Falkner - science-fiction (ISBN # 978-0-375-84367-9)

Non-Fiction

- 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)

Written Responses

Just think about and interact with the text you're reading. Write 3-5 paragraphs for the book(s). 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 if you encounter any problems or have any questions.

