



June 2017

Dear BelovED Families:

It is my pleasure to present to you our Summer Reading Assignments for Middle School! Summer Reading is an important activity for your child's intellectual growth and development. It encourages students to continue learning while still providing them with fun and excitement.

Your support in promoting literacy skills is especially important in elementary years. Experts recommend that students write and reflect on their reading in a journal or diary as often as possible.

We hope you and your child have a wonderful time reading this summer. We wish you all a restful and fun-filled summer!

Required reading for incoming sixth and seventh graders:

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake by Lauren Tarshis

Students should follow these instructions:

1. Read the three mandatory books. Students will be assessed on each book.
2. For each of the fiction novels (*Brian's Winter* and *Locomotion*) students will complete double entry journals. Templates and instructions are included in this document.
3. For the historical fiction selection (*I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake*), students will answer comprehension questions AND write a newspaper article pretending they are interviewing the main character. Their newspaper article should answer the questions Who, What, When, Where, Why and How and summarize the events in the book.
4. These assignments will count as the first three homework grades and one project grade of the semester. Students should bring their completed assignments with them on the first day of school in two pockets a folder marked with their names. This folder will house all writing assignments throughout the year.
5. Assignments can be typed AND printed or written NEATLY by hand.

Summer Reading Double-Entry Journal

A double-entry journal is a two-column journal in which a passage from the book is written in the left side (textual evidence) and a response to the passage is written in the right column (commentary). Responses might include asking questions of the text, forming personal opinions about the text, interpreting the text, or reflecting on the process of making meaning of the text.

As you read, you will be taking notes in a double-entry journal to record your thoughts and questions in response to your reading. You should choose a passage (a sentence, two sentences, a paragraph) **from each chapter**. You may respond in these ways:

- Write about an experience in your own life that relates to what is happening in the novel.
 - Write your opinions about what is happening in the novel.
 - Write your questions about what is happening in the novel.

If you are having trouble thinking of what to write, use these response starters:

- I really like (or dislike) this part because...
 - I wonder why...
 - I predict that...
 - I think the character should...
- This reminds me of the time when I...
- This reminds me of a book I read (movie I watched, and so on)...

Student's Name:

Brian's Winter

Chapter #	Passage from Text	Page #	Personal Response/Commentary (3-5 sentences)
SAMPLE	<p>“Just over a year ago, my father plucked me up like a weed and took me and all our belongings (no, that is not true – he did not bring the chestnut tree, the willow, the maple, the hayloft, or the swimming hole, which all belonged to me) and we drove three hundred miles straight north and stopped in front of a house in Euclid, Ohio.”</p>	SAMPL E	<p>This passage reminds me of when I had to move away from my old house in the city. I was really angry that we couldn't bring the playground with us. It sounds like she really likes trees and being outdoors, and that she will have to give up those things in her new home. Why is she moving and where is her mother?</p>
Chapter 1			
Chapters 2			
Chapter 3			
Chapter 4			

Chapter 5		
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Student's Name:

Locomotion

Chapter #	Passage from Text	Page #	Personal Response/Commentary (3-5 sentences)

I Survived The San Francisco Earthquake, 1906 Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1:

1. What can we infer is happening at the end of chapter one?
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Chapter 2:

2. What did Leo get from his grandfather, and where did his grandfather get it from?
-

Chapter 3:

3. What did Fletch and Wilkie want from Leo, and how did they find out that he had it?
-

Chapter 4:

4. How can you tell that Morris does not have many friends?
-

Chapter 5:

5. Why does the author tell us the story about Grandpa and the grizzly bear?
-

Chapter 6:

6. What is Leo's plan to trick Fletch and Wilkie into giving back the gold?
-

Chapter 7:

7. Just when Fletch and Wilkie are about to give Leo and Morris a beating, what happens to cause

them to stop?

Chapter 8:

8. What animal does Morris say had recognized the earthquake before they did?

Chapter 9:

9. How can you tell that Wilkie is really mad at Fletch?

Chapter 10:

10. Why can't the fire department put out the fires?

Chapter 11:

11. Why does Leo rush to go find the horses?

Chapter 12:

12. What happened to Morris, and how had Fletch escaped from him?

Chapter 13:

13. What does Wilkie give to the lady with the four children, and why do you think he gave it to her?

Chapter 14:

14. Where does Wilkie end up at the end of the story? Where do Leo and Morris end up going to?

