Mark Twain Middle School

 4700 Franconia Road

 Alexandria, VA 22310

Dear Parents:

 This summer, Twain Middle School will continue a summer reading requirement in order to encourage reading.  Follow-up activities have been developed by the teachers at our school, and these will be implemented in the fall.

 Middle School Language Arts has [a new *Middle School Reads* site](http://bit.ly/middleschoolreads) highlighting great young adult books. It’s a good way for our middle schoolers to explore current titles. Students may also read any book that is comparable to books on this site and approved by their parents. **Please see the next page** for more detailed information about the summer reading requirement at Twain.

 Reading is crucial to academic achievement, and I urge you to encourage your child to read many books, magazines, and newspaper articles over the summer months.  I appreciate your help as we all work together to support the academic program at Mark Twain Middle School.

Sincerely,

Chuck Miller, Principal

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

***Book Requirements***

Students will be reading a fiction book of their choosing for this assignment. Students must also complete the attached assignment and turn it into their English teacher on the first day of school. Books must be of a level and length that is appropriate for 8th grade. All of your work must be your own and not copied from any other source.

***Options for finding a book:***

You do not have to purchase a book. You can borrow a book through Fairfax County Public Libraries [(www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/libraryhttp%3A//www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)). If you are having trouble choosing a book, please refer to the [FCPS *Middle School Reads* website](http://bit.ly/middleschoolreads) for ideas. (<http://bit.ly/middleschoolreads>)

A digital copy of this assignment is available on the Mark Twain MS website

(<http://www.fcps.edu/TwainMS/>). Please contact Ms. Holly Winer at hawiner@fcps.edu, Ms. Rachael Fielder at rfielder@fcps.edu, or Ms. Marla Duncan at mlduncan@fcps.edu with any questions about this assignment.

This assignment, for all 8th grade students, is due on **August 28, 2018**.

Please complete ALL parts of the assignment. We encourage you to write all of your written responses on separate pieces of lined paper OR type them on the computer.

**Part 1: My Reading**

*Directions: Include the following information.*

 **Title:**

**Author:**

*Using the space below, create a* ***new cover*** *for the book, based on what you think is most* ***relevant*** *from the story. This should be neatly drawn. Consider using color to enhance your new cover.*

**Part 2: Setting Picture and Evidence**

*Directions: Find* ***3 sentences*** *in the book that* ***demonstrate the setting****. (If you’re unsure, make your best inference and explain.) Include* ***a page number****.*

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| --- | --- |
| **Setting** | **Evidence** |
| *The story takes place at a middle school.* | *“Well, I spend a lot of time trying to fit in here at McClenton Middle School”(2).* |
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|  |  |

**Part 3: Asking the Characters Questions**

*Directions: Create* ***2 questions*** *you could ask* ***a character*** *about the story. Explain why you’re interested in knowing the answer to these questions.* *Consider using the RACE Method to organize your* *response. Each question and explanation should be at least one paragraph.*

Question 1

Question 2

**Part 4: Make a Connection**

*Directions: Write* ***2 paragraphs*** *making a* ***personal connection*** *to the story. It can be 2 paragraphs about the connection or 2 paragraphs about two different connections. Consider using the RACE Method to organize your response.*

**Part 5: Vocabulary**

*Directions: Find* ***two unfamiliar*** *or* ***challenging words*** *in the book. Using context clues and a dictionary, write the* ***definition*** *of each word in your own words.* ***Circle*** *any* ***known prefixes*** *and* ***suffixes*** *in the word.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vocabulary Word  | Definition (in your own words) |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**\*\*Remember to circle any known prefixes and suffixes in the word!\*\***

**Part 6: Conflict**

*Directions: Explain* ***two conflicts*** *that happened in your story and how they were* ***resolved****. Each conflict explanation should be at least one paragraph.*

Conflict 1

Conflict 2

**Part 7: Change an Aspect of the Story**

*Directions: Change* ***one aspect of the story****: the setting, a character’s personality, a conflict, or part of the plot. What would you change and how would it affect the story? Consider using the RACE Method to organize your response.*