

Saint Susanna School 8th Grade Summer Reading

Dear Parents and Incoming Eighth Grade Students:

Listed below are the summer reading selections and assignments. For both selections, the student must take the AR test over the summer. For AR Tests, the computer lab is open every Tuesday from 10:00a – 11:30a, and every Thursday from 4:00p – 5:30p. Please enter through the 5th street door by the elevator. Testing will begin June 6, 2017, and run through July 27, 2017.

Summer AR Testing will NOT take place on Tuesday, July 4, 2017.

The assignments are **due the first week of school.**

1. Fiction of Choice: Choose one of the following

- *Shooting Kabul* by N. H. Senzai
- *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

The assignment for the fiction book can be found on the following page.

2. Informational Text of Choice: Choose one of the following

- *Immigrant Kids* by Russell Freedman
- *What Was Ellis Island?* by Patricia Brennan Demuth
- *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island* by Ellen Levine

Students may use their informational text book when taking the AR test. Please be sure to bring the book with you. Books will not be available to borrow for the test.

After reading the informational text, please research your family's own history of immigration to the United States of America, whether it is recent or "ancient" history. You might want to include details such as country of origin, port of entry, entry date, etc. I am excited to hear each student's history! You will need to type a one page (minimum!) paper using Times New Roman 12pt. font with 1" margins all around. Ensure you cite properly using MLA format. *Use <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/> for basic information on formatting and an MLA Works Cited page.*

Note from the library: There is a wonderful web site that allows you to search for names of people that went through Ellis Island. <http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger> I just searched for my husband's grandparents and found the name of the ship they traveled on and the year they came.

This would be a great opportunity for the students to "interview" grandparents or great-grandparents.

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USE FOR FICTIONAL NOVEL

Literary Terms 2016

Allusion – An allusion is a reference to a famous person, place, event, or work of literature. These are often used to help make a comparison.

Character – Characters are the people, animals, or imaginary creatures who take part in the action of a work of literature. Like real people, characters display certain qualities, or character traits, that develop and change over time, and they usually have motivations, or reasons, for their behaviors.

Dynamic Character – A dynamic character is one who undergoes important changes as a plot unfolds. The changes occur because of the character's actions and experiences in the story. The changes are usually internal and may be good or bad. Main characters are usually, though not always, dynamic.

Static Character – A static character is one who remains the same throughout a story. The character may experience events and have interactions with other characters, but he or she is not changed because of them.

Antagonist – The antagonist is a force working against the protagonist, or main character, in a story, play, or novel. The antagonist is usually another character but can be a force of nature, society itself, or an internal force within the main character.

Protagonist – A protagonist is the main character in a story, play, or novel. The protagonist is involved in the main conflict of the story. Usually, the protagonist undergoes changes as the plot runs its course.

Conflict – A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. Almost every story has a main conflict – a conflict that is the story's focus.

External Conflict – An external conflict involves a character who struggles against a force outside him- or herself, such as nature, a physical obstacle, or another character.

Internal Conflict – An internal conflict is one that occurs within a character.

Cultural Conflict – A cultural conflict is a struggle that arises because of differing values, customs, or circumstances between groups of people.

Imagery – Imagery consists of descriptive words and phrases that re-create sensory experiences for the reader. Imagery usually appeals to one or more of the five senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch – to help the reader imagine exactly what is being described. (Note the appeals to sight, taste, and touch in the following line: The aroma of popcorn drew me to the bright red concession stand.)

Point of View – Point of view refers to the method of narration used in a short story, novel, narrative poem, or work of nonfiction. In a work told from a **first-person point of view**, the narrator is a character in the story. In a **third-person point of view**, the narrative voice is outside the action, not one of the characters. If a story is told from a **third-person omniscient**, or all knowing, point of view, the narrator sees into the minds of all the characters. If events are relayed from a **third-person limited** point of view, the narrator tells what only one character thinks, feels and observes.

Theme – A theme is a message about life or human nature that the writer shares with the reader. In many cases, readers must infer what the writer's message is. One way of figuring out a theme is to apply the lessons learned by the main character to people in real life.

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Name _____ Date _____

Note-Taking Guide for Novel of Choice

Directions: Each literary term that is defined on your assignment handout has been listed on this sheet. Take notes (include page numbers and quotations!) on your novel of choice, so you are ready to discuss it with your classmates and with me when we return from summer break. Use the space provided to show your understanding of the literary terminology. You should give examples (text evidence!) from the novel and describe/explain how your example fits the term. Each entry should aid you in making points in our future discussion.

EXAMPLE:

Antagonist – John Doe is the antagonist in the story. This angry character is always trying to devise a plan that will ruin the main character, Jane Smith, the helicopter pilot who is humanity’s last chance for redemption in the story’s broken world. John hacks the flight simulator, cuts the helicopter fuel lines, and even tries to abandon Jane at the bottom of a cave. However, Jane overcomes each obstacle and, in the end, even sways John to her side.

1. **Protagonist** –

2. **Dynamic Character** –

3. **Static Character** –

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4. **Conflict** –
(Focus on the main conflict, and explain whether it is external, internal, or cultural)

5. **Imagery** –

6. **Point of View** –

7. **Theme** –