

Eighth Grade Summer **Assignments 2019**

All assignments are also available online at:

<http://www.mphschool.org/middle-school-summer-assignments/>

English (All students)

Dear Eighth Graders,

This summer, in preparation for English 8, you have two things to accomplish.

First you'll be reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, a moving, at times funny, and often thought-provoking story about a girl living in Germany during World War II. As you read, consider issues of **justice, friendship, sympathy, and power** that arise in the novel. Please annotate as you read, meaning mark important phrases and passages related to themes, character development, and questions that arise in your mind; you might also write in the margins or on post-its. When you're done reading, think about the following questions. These are issues we'll discuss when school starts:

- **Who is the story's narrator and what impact does that have on the story?**
- **How does the relationship between Liesel and her adoptive parents develop over the course of the story?**
- **Liesel has very important friendships with three characters in the novel: Hans (her stepfather), Rudy, and Max. What draws her to each of these people? Which specific moments seem to solidify the bond she has with each of them? And why?**
- **How does the book's title relate to the story? Why do books take on such a significance in the story?**

You should be prepared to take a quiz on the novel in the second class in September. We will also write an essay on the novel together, as a class. Therefore, I recommend that you read *The Book Thief* (or reread it) in the weeks leading up to our return to school.

Second, in addition to reading *The Book Thief* specifically for class, I strongly encourage you to read throughout the summer. Choose whatever books, stories, poetry, magazines, etc. that interest you. Keep a **reading log**, detailing all that you read this summer, to share with me when you come back to school.

If you have any questions, please call (446-3049) or e-mail me (pbentleyhoke@mphschool.org). I am so looking forward to meeting you all and hearing what you have to say about the book. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,
Ms. Bentley Hoke

History (all students)

Directions: Your summer assignment for History 8 is to read:

Red Scarf Girl

by Ji-Li Jiang

(ISBN # - 978-0064462082)

In preparation for class discussion, answer the following questions in type-written responses. This assignment will be collected on the first day of class.

The Cultural Revolution and its Implementation

- ☐ What was the Cultural Revolution? What were its objectives?
- ☐ What were the Four Olds? What methods did the Cultural Revolution use to eliminate the Four Olds? Provide examples.
- ☐ What were some of the statements written on *da-zi-bao's*? How do they reflect the mission of the Cultural Revolution?

Impact on Relationships

- ☐ Do the events of the Cultural Revolution strengthen the bonds between Ji-Li's family or weaken them? Does she ever place country before family? What are some examples when she is forced to choose between the two? What does she choose?
- ☐ What impact does the Cultural Revolution have on other families in the book? Be able to provide several examples.
- ☐ How does the Cultural Revolution influence the relationships that Ji-Li has with her classmates? How does it unify them? How does it divide them? Provide examples.

Evolution of Ji-Li

- ☐ How does Ji-Li's feeling toward Chairman Mao evolve during the story? Are there specific events that cause her feelings toward Mao to change?

Historical Impact of the Cultural Revolution on China

- ☐ How did the revolution impact education? What was Ji-Li taught? What skills and content were neglected? How might this curriculum have effected China's economic development? How does this contribute to the 'Lost Generation' mentioned in the David Henry Hwang's *Forward*?
- ☐ The Cultural Revolution attempted to unify China's citizens around a common objective? Did it succeed? Why/why not?

Historical Connections

- ☐ Is Ji-Li's story similar to any other historical time periods that you have studied? Explain.

Mr. Mangram

Math:

Complete the assignment for the course you will be ENTERING in September.

Packets are available online at: <http://www.mphschool.org/middle-school-summer-assignments/>

Or www.mphschool.org

- Select My MPH at the top
- Choose summer assignments
- Click Middle School
- Select Math 7 or Algebra AC packet

Math 8

- Complete the Math 8 packet

Algebra AC

- Review/Complete the book *Pre-Algebra Demystified* by Allan Bluman – refer to letter for details (in the Algebra AC packet)
- Complete the packet for students entering Algebra AC

Geometry AC

- Read the book *Number Devil* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
- Complete the Geometry AC packet