

## Grade 8 Summer Reading + Writing 2022

### Directions Reading:

Please select **at least one** of the historical fiction novels from the list to read over the summer. (You may read more than one of the books.)

**Buy a print notebook with lined paper for English class.** Answer the journal questions for the novel you read **in your notebook (HANDWRITTEN)**. (If you read more than one novel, you only need to answer the journal questions for **ONE** of the novels).

Please bring the book(s) you read **AND** the notebook with you to the first day of class next school year.

**Your first assessment for the year will be on this book.**

**Journal questions will be a Week One homework mark (4).**

### Book List (choose at least ONE):

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

*We Are Not Free* by Traci Chee

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

### Journal Questions - please answer all:

1. **Talk about the time period in which the story is set.** How well does the author convey the era? Did you have a sense of whether or not the author remained true to the events, social structures and political events of the time period?
2. **Discuss your understanding.** Is this a time period that you knew a lot about before you read this book? If so, did you learn anything new? If not, did you come away with a greater understanding of what this particular time and place in history was actually like?
3. **Discuss the book's structure.** Does the author use any narrative devices like flashbacks or multiple voices in telling the story? How does this affect

the story and your appreciation of the book? Do you think the author did a good job with it? How do you think it might have been different if another character was telling the story?

4. **Talk about the author's use of language/writing style.** Note your favorite passage here (If it is short, write out the quote and page number. If it is long, just give a short context and page number). How does this particular passage relate to the story as a whole? Does it reveal anything specific about any of the characters or illuminate certain aspects of the story? What do you like about it in terms of language and writing style?

### **Directions for Weekly Summer Journal Writing:**

Please spend about 20 minutes 1x a week responding to ONE of the prompts below. These should ALL be written in your English notebook (see reading directions). You may write for a longer period of time OR more than 1x a week (or even respond to more prompts!) The task is 1x a week for 20 minutes for a total of 5 journal prompts.

**Summer Journal Writing responses will be a Week One homework mark (5).**

### **PROMPTS**

1. Does your family have different rules or routines during the summer? Explain what changes at home and what stays the same.
2. Describe your ideal summer day from start to finish. Use as much detail as you can.
3. What magic power would you like to have? How would you use it? What would it feel like?
4. If you could take one part of summer vacation and make it last all year long, which part would you choose? Why?
5. Would you rather go swimming in the ocean or in a pool? Why?
6. How would you like your life to be when you're older?
7. If summer were a person, what type of personality would he or she have

8. Describe summer using each of your five senses. What does summer look like? Sound like? Taste like? Feel like? Smell like?
9. Write a review about a movie you watched.
10. Write a story about a summer that never ends.
11. Is summer your favorite season? Why or why not? How does it compare to other parts of the year?
12. If you could travel anywhere in the world this summer, where would you want to go? Why? What would you do there?
13. Do you have a philosophy of life? If so, what is it? If not, what is your method for making important decisions?
14. What is a mistake people often make about you? How do you feel about it?
15. Write about a book you read.
16. What is one thing you could do this summer to make yourself a better student in the fall? How would this help you to improve?
17. Write a poem describing the way summer makes you feel.
18. Write a scene that includes fireflies.
19. What are your most prized possessions? Why?
20. Someone is driving with the car windows down, singing at the top of their lungs to their favorite song. Who are they? Where are they going — or what are they getting away from? Why do they like this song so much?
21. Write about an outdoor event getting interrupted by a downpour.
22. Where is the most unusual place you would like to visit? Explain why.
23. What do you consider to be your culture, and how do you feel about it?

**Happy Reading and Writing!**