

Greetings, Grade 7 Scholars!

While I am sure each of you already has an eye on some good summer reading, below is a list of great books to add to your summer inventory. As part of your summer reading assignment, you should choose two of these books to read, one from each group. (Please choose books you have not read before and unabridged versions.) You will then write a one page review (2 paragraphs long) of one of the two books you have chosen. You will also make a creative project inspired by the other book you have read. (See details below.) Happy reading! I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the books you read when we meet in September!

### **Classic Novels**

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*Peter Pan* by James Barrie

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

*The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

*The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas

*The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

*Kim* by Rudyard Kipling

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Emmuska von Orczy

*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

*The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain

*Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne

*Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* by Jules Verne

**Modern Novels/Titles**

*The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

*The Snowbird* by Patricia Calvert

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

*The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli

*Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier

*Hornblower Saga: Beat to Quarters* by C.S. Forester

*Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

*The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

*Lost Horizon* by James Hilton

*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

*Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula Leguin

*A Ring of Endless Light* by Madeleine L'Engle

*White Fang* or *Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> Street* by Mike Lupica

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers

*Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson

*Rascal* by Sterling North

*Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian

*My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok

*Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

*Holes* by Louis Sachar

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*The Invisible Man* by H. G. Wells

## **The Book Review**

Write a one-page (two-paragraph) review of one of the two books you have chosen to read. The review must be typed and double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font and one-inch margins. Turn in both a rough and a final draft. Mechanics count!

### ★ Paragraph One

In the first paragraph describe the book's genre, setting (time and place), main characters, and plot. When you describe the plot, think about the central conflict that needs to be resolved in the story or the key problem that needs to be solved. Conflicts can be between different characters; within a single character; between one character and a society or political system; or between a character and the natural world. Describe this conflict and its ultimate resolution. Did the main character learn anything from this conflict?

### ★ Paragraph Two

In the second paragraph, describe the overarching theme of the novel. What idea or point holds the story together? What message does the author want to get across to

the reader in telling this story? (For example, love is stronger than hate; enduring hardship may make a person stronger or develop wisdom; the importance of friendship; respect for those who are different; respect for the earth; the dangers of technology; the inhumanity of modern industrial forces; etc.) Describe one or two specific scenes that bring the theme of the novel to light. For example, in *A Tale of Two Cities*, several scenes with Lucie and her father, Dr. Manette, demonstrate the transformative power of love.

**Note:** You should include at least one passage from the text, with a citation, in each paragraph.

### **The Creative Project**

Choose from the list of project ideas below. Be sure that your project is neatly done, presented in a polished manner, and labeled with your name and the title/author of the book you have read.

- Create a game based on the book.
- Write and illustrate a children's version of the book.
- Write a series of letters between the main character and another character (~5 letters).
- Write a series of journal entries from the point of view of one of the characters (~3 typed pages).
- Write a letter to the author of the story explaining why you did/did not find the story compelling; suggest how you might change the plot line/characters/setting to make the story more convincing or suggest the outline of a prequel/sequel.
- Write a play based on the book.
- Build a detailed model based on the book.
- Write a song based on the book and set it to original music.
- Create an advertising campaign for your book. If the novel has been made into a film, do not use materials that have already been created.

Remember:

Your project should include:

1. Your name.

2. Title of the book (formatted properly).

3. Author's name.