



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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College of Education
Model Laboratory School
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19 May 2016

Parents of Rising Eighth Graders:

Model Laboratory School's summer reading program requires each student entering a middle school language arts class to complete a summer reading assignment. We believe this program will permit students to explore more literature than the time in class allows and that this will also encourage and promote more active reading on the part of our students. Research suggests that summer reading not only sustains reading skills among students, but that it enhances abilities.

To prepare for 8th grade Language Arts, students will:

- Read two books from the attached Summer Reading List—ONE will be either The Adventures of Tom Sawyer OR Diary of a Young Girl. The other will be chosen from the Kentucky Bluegrass Award Nominees for 2016-17. Students/Parents are responsible for obtaining their own books.
- Create a free student account on www.reading-rewards.com.
- Log and comment on his/her reading on Reading-Rewards.
- Write a book review for both books and post them on Reading-Rewards.
 - Each book review should have 3 paragraphs as follows:
 - Paragraph 1: A summary of the book first (no spoilers!)
 - Paragraph 2: A personal response to the book. What did you dislike and/or like about the book? Why?
 - Paragraph 3: A recommendation of the book. What kind of reader would you recommend this book to and why?
- Post at least one thought-provoking discussion question per book on the Reading Rewards Blog.
- For each book, respond (respectfully and thoughtfully!) to at least one discussion question posted by another student on the Reading Rewards Blog.
- Instructions and a rubric on how to complete all Reading Rewards assignments are attached.

The grades for these activities will count toward the grade for the first nine-weeks grading period. Completion of the summer reading assignment is required for successful completion of the course. Students should be encouraged to avoid procrastination. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Travis M. Marcum M.A.Ed.

Getting started on Reading Rewards!

Step 1) Go to URL: <http://www.reading-rewards.com/sign-up.html>

Step 2) Click on the 'Sign me Up!' button in the Readers column and follow the signup instructions (You should set up your username as first name and the first initial of last name. My username would be Travis M., for example.)

Step 3) Sign In to your account

Step 4) Click on 'Reading Circle > My Groups'

Step 5) Search for our groups in the Search box: our group names are **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** (XR16RB), **Diary of a Young Girl** (8N82CH), and **Kentucky Bluegrass Award Nominees** (9DWZAQ).

Step 6) Enter the corresponding “security code” for each group you join (shown above).

TO LOG READING TIME and COMMENTS:

- Click on “Log your Reading.”
- Choose an avatar from your “My Stats” section at the left.
- To log your reading, select the “My Reading Log” tab, then “Log Reading Time.”
- Your book list will be empty. Click on “Book Lists” tab at the top.
- Click on “Recommended Books Lists.”
- Under “What kind of book lists would you like displayed?”
 - Click on “List compiled for my group.”
- Select a book list to display
 - You will choose The Adventures of Tom Sawyer OR Diary of a Young Girl as ONE of your TWO Summer Reading selections. Your other selection will come from the “Kentucky Bluegrass Nominees” book list. Click on cover of book for more details about the book. Once you have decided on which books you want to read (The Adventures of Tom Sawyer OR Diary of a Young Girl AND a KBA Nominee), you may get them from your public library, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, or other.
- Choose your book and click “Add Book to my Library.”
- Enter your reading date. Now, you can enter your reading time: put in the number of minutes you read and leave a comment about your reading. In your comment you could discuss themes, characters, connections, predictions, etc...
- This should be an ongoing process as you read your books. Remember, you can keep a “paper log” (provided) then transfer your reading times and comments to the website. (SEE RUBRIC)

TO COMPOSE A BOOK REVIEW:

- If you said you finished your book when logging it, you will be asked to review it. Write your review in the space provided. Then, submit it! Each book review should have 3 paragraphs as follows: (also SEE RUBRIC)
 - Paragraph 1: A summary of the book first (no spoilers!)
 - Paragraph 2: A personal response to the book. What did you dislike and/or like about the book? Why?
 - Paragraph 3: A recommendation of the book. What kind of reader would you recommend this book to and why?

TO MAKE A BLOG POST AND REPLY TO OTHERS:

- Under “Reading Circle” tab, click “My Groups.” Here you will see the groups you signed up for. You will either have “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” AND “Kentucky Bluegrass Nominees” OR you will have “Diary of a Young Girl” AND “Kentucky Bluegrass Nominees.” If you don’t see those, go back to the first 6 steps and enter the security codes for the groups you wish to join.
- Click on the group for which you want to post a blog. Then, click the “blog” tab at the top. Now, you can add a “post” to the blog OR you can “reply” to another post. Remember, you must post at least one thought-provoking discussion question per book and RESPOND (respectfully and thoughtfully!) to at least ONE discussion question per book posted by another student on the Reading Rewards Blog. See RUBRIC.

Classics Section: Choose ONE

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

(Warning: Contains time period related dialect that may be offensive.) This childhood classic relates a small-town boy's pranks and escapades with timeless humor and wisdom. In addition to his everyday stunts (searching for buried treasure, trying to impress the adored Becky Thatcher), Tom experiences a dramatic turn of events when he witnesses a murder, runs away, and returns to attend his own funeral and testify in court.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

2016-2017 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Nominees: Choose at least ONE

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans / Don Brown – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage--and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.

Echo / Pam Munoz Ryan; Dinara Mirtalipova, ill. Scholastic Press, 2015.

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica--and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

Goodbye Stranger / Rebecca Stead – Wendy Lamb Books, 2015.

Bridge, survivor of a childhood accident, wonders why she's still alive. As she makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and new friend, Sherm, she finds the answers she has been seeking. Each character navigates the challenges of love and change in this captivating novel.

The Honest Truth / Dan Gemeinhart – Scholastic Press, 2015.

A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau--but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on, nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading.

Lost in the Sun / Lisa Graff – Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2015.

In 5th grade, Trent mistakenly shot a hockey puck into a boy's chest. Jared, who had a heart defect, died. Now Trent is filled with rage, convinced everyone hates him. It isn't until Trent gets caught up in the whirlwind that is Fallon Little--the girl with the mysterious scar across her face--that things begin to change.

Masterminds / Gordon Korman – Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2015.

Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world: Serenity, New Mexico. Honesty and integrity are valued above all else. One day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate and it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity.

The Nest / Kenneth Oppel; Jon Klassen, ill. – Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015.

For Steve, summer is just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves. So when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to "fix" the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. But "yes" is a powerful word. And dangerous. Once it is uttered, can it be taken back?

Losers Take All : A Novel / David Klass – Farrar Strauss Giroux, 2015.

Jack Logan is the youngest brother in a family of talented football players, and he might actually enjoy sports if he were not constantly pressured into taking one up. When the new principal decides that all seniors must play on a team, Jack and a ragtag group decide to get even by starting a rebel JV soccer team whose mission is to avoid victory at any cost.

Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek / Maya Van Wagenen – Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), LLC, 2014.

Maya has never been popular, but before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment - spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell and record the results. Told with humor and grace, Maya's journey offers a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence.

Rhyme Schemer / K.A. Holt – Chronicle Books, 2014.

This novel in verse follows one seventh grader's journey from bully-er to bully-ee, as he learns about friendship, family, and the influence that words can have on people's lives.

Social Media User Agreement

By participating in our Reading Rewards group, you agree to the following online behavior expectations:

- Post with consideration and respect at all times.
- Disagreement is an important part of a good discussion, but you must disagree politely.
- Only post about school-appropriate topics using school-appropriate language.
- Use each other's names when responding to discussion questions to avoid confusion.
- Reread your messages before sending to avoid confusion.
- Actively engage in the conversation by posting thoughtful responses to the questions

Failure to follow these guidelines could affect your student's grade for the summer reading project and result in possible disciplinary action when the school-year begins. Mr. Marcum has final editorial control of all book reviews and discussion posts.

Helpful Reminders

My Reading Rewards Username: _____

My Reading Rewards Password: _____

Mr. Marcum's email: travis.marcum@eku.edu

8th Grade Summer Reading Rubric

	Distinguished 15 points	Proficient 13 Points	Apprentice 11 points	Novice 10 points
Book Review First Sentence	The first sentence includes the title, author, and a creative lead.	Title and author are both listed immediately, but the lead is not engaging.	Either the title OR the author is missing.	Title and/or author are not mentioned at all.
Plot Summary Paragraph	The plot description includes just enough detail. Events are told in chronological order. The most important characters are named and described briefly. After reading the description, the reader wants to read the book.	Events are told in chronological order. More info should have been given, or too much has been provided. The most important characters are named and described briefly. The summary may not create reader interest.	The plot description is overly complicated, overly simple, or does not make the reader feel curious. Events may also be disorganized. One or two important characters are left out.	The plot description is minimal, too detailed, or confusing due to disorganization. Only one main character is mentioned briefly, possibly not by name. Other essential characters are left out.
Personal Response Paragraph	Your opinion is so insightful that other readers will take your advice. Your opinion is thoughtful, clear, and well-supported.	You gave an honest and clear opinion about your book. You also gave a few good examples to support why you liked or disliked the book.	Your personal opinion is clear but unsupported with evidence from the text.	You only wrote one or two sentences telling me simple ideas like "The book is cool!" or "The book is boring."
Recommendation Paragraph	The review provides a clear recommendation paragraph with strong reasons and text evidence as support. The book is recommended to specific types of readers.	The review provides a clear recommendation statement. Some text evidence is used, but not enough. You assumed that every reader would feel the same about the book.	The review provides a recommendation statement, but does not include any support. You assumed that every reader would feel the same about the book.	The review provides a recommendation statement. However, it is general, such as, "This is a good book." No reasons or text details are provided as support.
Conventions/ Grammar	Book Review and discussion postings provide evidence of a consistent and strong command of grade-level conventions. Very few errors present.	Book Review and discussion postings provide evidence of an adequate command of grade-level conventions. A few errors present.	Book Review and discussion postings provide evidence of a limited command of grade-level conventions. Multiple errors present.	Book Review and discussion provide little or no evidence of a command of grade-level conventions. Errors interfere with ability to understand message.
Reading Logs with Comments	You logged both books completely and accurately including thoughtful comments.	You logged most of your minutes accurately and completely with thoughtful comments.	You logged less than half of your reading minutes for both books and rarely left comments.	You did not log your reading minutes at all or comment.
Discussion Postings	Your discussion question and response are insightful and rely on text evidence.	Your discussion question and response are clearly communicated and use some text evidence.	You may have forgotten either the discussion question or the response.	You forgot both the discussion question and the discussion response.

