

Welcome to the 8th grade!

I am looking forward to an exciting school year where together we will talk about books and share our writing. In preparation, you will read two novels this summer. One is required and the other will be your choice from the attached list. Summer reading has two purposes. The first keeps students in the "brain game" or academic mode and the second is adventure. Reading is an adventure and it is my hope that students will enjoy the adventure of reading. You will complete a project for the required novel. When all students return to school, a second project on the self - selected novel will be completed.

REQUIRED NOVEL

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS - *Stargirl*

You will create five literary element CDs and decorate the CD case. The CDs will illustrate character, setting, conflict/resolution, plot and theme of the novel, *Stargirl*. Using a standard size CD create a template out of cardboard, then cut out five circles the size of a CD. Carefully follow the attached instructions and remember to be creative! Use your best writing, spelling and remember the rules of grammar. It is NEVER acceptable to use another person's work and claim it as your own. Do your own work! I am not asking for perfection just your best effort. Project instructions are included and the due date for this project is **Monday, August 24, 2009**. Students will need to bring a copy of the novel, *Stargirl* to school during the first grading period of the school year.

SELF - SELECTED NOVEL

This novel must come from the attached 2009 Texas Lone Star Reading List. Your parents and you should talk together to determine which book is the best choice for you. The attached list is diverse and is intended to encourage and support recreational reading for students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. If you would like to preview the list online, please go to the following website: www.txla.org. Find the reading list link and follow the prompt to see the 2009 Lone Star reading list with annotations. The annotations will allow you, the reader to decide if a particular book fits your interests.

Although the project for the second novel will not be assigned until school starts, it is important to know the following information:

- Book title and the author
- Main character
- Setting
- Main problem or conflict

Students will need to bring a copy of their self - selected novel to school during the first grading period of the school year.

If you are unsure of any part of the summer reading assignment, please email me at mburkhol@providencehs.net. I check my school email frequently during the summer, so I will be happy to answer questions if the need arises.

Happy reading!

Margo Burkholder
Mrs. Margo Burkholder



CDs

Literary Elements CD

NAME _____

In this project you will design five CDs—both front and back—that illustrate the five literary elements in a short story or novel.

Directions:

1. Use the cardboard CD cutout as a template to cut out 5 circles the size of a CD. The circle must have a hole in the center to fit in a CD case.
2. Label the first CD "Character." Describe a character in the story on one side. Draw an illustration that represents that character on the opposite side.
3. The second CD will be labeled "Setting." On this CD, describe a setting from the story and draw an illustration on the opposite side.
4. The third CD will be labeled "Conflict" on one side and "Resolution" on the other. Write about a specific conflict on one side and provide an illustration. On the other side, explain the resolution and provide an illustration.
5. The fourth CD will be labeled "Plot" and will consist of a description of the major events of the story on one side and an illustration on the other.
6. The final CD will be labeled "Theme." On one side, describe a theme that runs throughout the story and illustrate the theme on the other side.
7. Provide the title and author of the story and an illustration on the cover of the case. You can do this on a sheet of white drawing paper cut to fit the outside of the case and paste it on. Place the CDs inside the CD case.
8. Write your name on the back of the case.

Rubric for Comprehension CDs:

_____ front of CD case has title, author, illustration; your name is on the back
(5 points)

_____ Character CD description includes character's physical attributes, personality, behavior, thoughts and feelings; illustrated and labeled (15 points)

_____ Setting CD describes setting with vivid vocabulary; illustrated and labeled
(15 points)

_____ Conflict/Resolution described; CD illustrated and labeled "Conflict" on one side and "Resolution" on the other (15 points)

_____ Plot CD describes important events that occur; illustrated and labeled
(15 points)

_____ theme is clearly stated; CD illustrated and labeled "Theme" (15 points)

_____ correct spelling, usage, punctuation, capitalization, complete sentences; neatly presented (20 points)

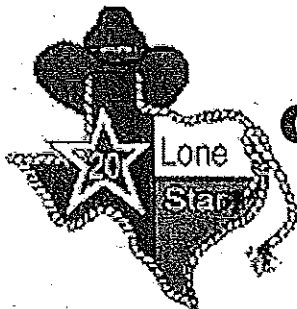
_____ FINAL GRADE/100

2009 Texas Lone Star Reading List

- Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound*. Feiwel and Friends, 2008.
- Brande, Robin. *Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature*. Knopf, 2007.
- Colfer, Eoin. *Airman*. Hyperion, 2008.
- Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic, 2008.
- Connor, Leslie. *Waiting for Normal*. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, 2008.
- Deuker, Carl. *Gym Candy*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.
- Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*. David Fickling Books/Random House, 2008.
- Freitas, Donna. *The Possibilities of Sainthood*. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008.
- Frost, Helen. *Diamond Willow*. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008.
- Gardner, Sally. *The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution*. Dial, 2008.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found (The Missing, Book One)*. Simon & Schuster, 2008.
- Herlong, M.H. *The Great Wide Sea*. Viking, 2008.
- Higgins, F.E. *The Black Book of Secrets*. Feiwel and Friends, 2007.
- Meehl, Brian. *Suck It Up*. Delacorte, 2008.
- Pearson, Mary E. *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*. Henry Holt, 2008.
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *the dead and the gone*. Harcourt, 2008.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Antsy Does Time*. Dutton, 2008.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. Simon & Schuster, 2007.
- Smith, Roland. *I, Q.: Independence Hall*. Sleeping Bear, 2008.
- Ziegler, Jennifer. *How Not to be Popular*. Delacorte, 2008.

The Texas Lone Star list is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table. The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source.

The annotated 2009 Lone Star Reading list and the past Lone Star Reading Lists are located at: <http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/lonestarlists.html>



**Celebrating 20 Years
of Lone Star**

