

## Summer Reading Assignment 2010: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Each student who is moving up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to read two novels, and six short stories. Students will also be asked to complete a short novel assessment form for each novel and a choice of one short response and essay bundle based on the short stories.

### NOVELS:

#### All students will read:

*Esperanza Rising*: P. Munoz Ryan

Students must read at least **one** of the following:

*Freak the Mighty*: R. Philbrick

*Heat*: M. Lupica

*Nothing but the Truth*: Avi

*Ender's Game*: O.S. Card

#### Short Stories (students must read all 6)

"Song of Trees," M.D. Taylor

"Old Demon," P.S. Buck

"After You My Dear Alphonse," S. Jackson

"Charles," S. Jackson

"Thank You, M'am," L. Hughes

"All Summer in a Day," R. Bradbury

### POEMS

"My Excellent Education," K. Nesbit

"Paul Revere's Ride," H. W. Longfellow

"Oh Captain, My Captain," W. Whitman

**Directions/ Novels:** Each student will read *Esperanza Rising* by P. Nunozy Ryan and complete a novel assessment form provided in this packet. Students will then choose a second book from the list provided and complete a novel assessment form for that book, as well. Students are free to read more than three books and may complete extra novel assessment forms for extra credit at the beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Novel assessments are due on the first day of class in September. Three novel assessment forms are provided, although only two are required. All summer forms will be available on the MDY website at the end of June.

**Directions/Short Stories:** Students are required to read all **six** stories and the **three** poems provided in the packet and must complete **one** of the **three** short response and essay bundles as well as the questions for the poems. The bundles are located after the three novel assessment forms.

All work can be written in this packet. If you are uncomfortable writing in the lines provided, then you may use your own paper. All work must be in your best handwriting, typed work will be accepted but it is not necessary to type the assignments.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates you read \_\_\_\_\_

English 8  
Summer 2010

**Summer Reading 2010: Novel Assessment Form #1**

Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

What genre (type) of book is this (i.e. historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name the main character and describe him/her:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What conflict/ problem/ challenge did he/she face?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize the plot in three (3) or four (4) sentences:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are the themes or "general truths about life" touched on in the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you encourage others to read this book? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates you read \_\_\_\_\_

English 8  
Summer 2010

**Summer Reading 2010: Novel Assessment Form #2**

Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

What genre (type) of book is this (i.e. historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name the main character and describe him/her:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What conflict/ problem/ challenge did he/she face?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize the plot in three (3) or four (4) sentences:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are the themes or "general truths about life" touched on in the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you encourage others to read this book? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates you read \_\_\_\_\_

English 8  
Summer 2010

**Summer Reading 2010: Novel Assessment#3:Extra Credit**

Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

What genre (type) of book is this (i.e. historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name the main character and describe him/her:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What conflict/ problem/ challenge did he/she face?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize the plot in three (3) or four (4) sentences:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are the themes or "general truths about life" touched on in the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you encourage others to read this book? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Short Story Bundles: Choose One

### Story Bundle #1: "Old Demon" & "Song of Trees":

Read these two stories and answer these short response questions and one essay:

1. How did Mrs. Wang save herself and her child when her husband died?

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2. In what ways is Mrs. Wang a person who protects and supports life?

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3. How does David Logan convince Anderson to stop cutting the trees?

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4. On the left side of the chart simply list two character traits of David Logan.  
On the right side describe a scene that proves you claim.

**Character Trait**

**Proof**

Character Trait	Proof

Essay Question: The phrase: *a person who stands up to enemies and protects and cares for others should be admired* can be applied to both stories. In the stories you have read, David Logan and Mrs. Wang can both be seen to have these qualities. In a four paragraph essay, compare how these two characters show similar traits.

Be sure to include:

Introduction: Mention both stories and authors.

Mention and explain the phrase provide.

Strong topic sentence is needed.

(3-5) sentences

Paragraph #2: How does Mrs. Wang show these qualities?

Use evidence from the story.

(4-6) sentences





## Short Story Bundle #2: "After You My Dear Alphonse" & "Charles"

1. What incorrect assumption does Mrs. Wilson make about her son's friend Boyd? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Give three examples of Charlie's poor behavior at school:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Were you surprised to find out that Laurie and Charles were the same person? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Essay question: An assumption is when you make a conclusion based on little or no evidence. Often, assumptions can lead to incorrect thoughts or conclusions. In the two stories you have just read you will discuss how assuming things can cause lead to a false conclusion. In a four-paragraph essay, explain how the two situations lead to false conclusions.

Introduction: Mention both stories and authors.

Mention and explain the problems caused by assuming things.

Strong topic sentence is needed.

(3-5) sentences

Paragraph #2: What is Mrs. Wilson's assumption?

How do we know she is incorrect?

Use evidence from the story.

(4-6) sentences

Paragraph #3: What does Laurie's mother assume?

How does her assumption lead to more confusion?

Use evidence from the story.

(4-6) sentences

Paragraph #4: Conclusion

Sum up your essay.

What other characters or real people can you describe who have these qualities?

Explain why these qualities are important.

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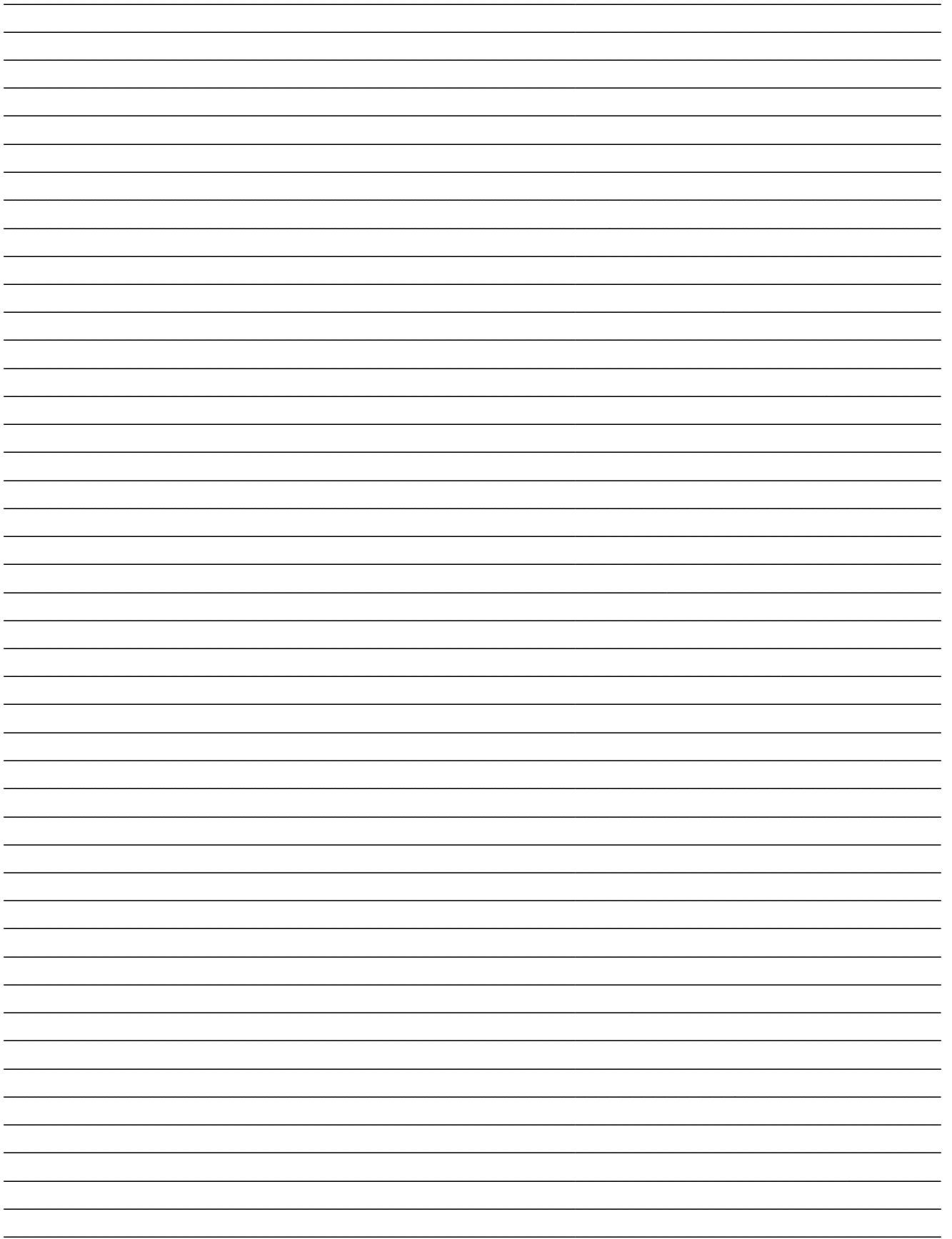
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### Short Story Bundle #3: "Thank You, M'am" & "All Summer in a Day"

1. Explain how Mrs. Luella Bates Washington changes Roger through kindness and understanding. Do you think this incident will have a big impact on Roger?

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2. Explain this line from the story; " He didn't trust the woman *not* to trust him. And he did not want to be mistrusted now."

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3. In what ways is Margot's experience with the sun different from that of her classmates?

How does this difference affect how they get along?

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4. How do the children feel when they remember what they have done to Margot?

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Essay question: Learn to treat others with dignity and respect is an important part of growing up. In the two stories you have just read the characters are faced with situations where a lesson on this concept can be learned. In a four-paragraph essay you will explain how the situations teach a lesson in humility (treating others well).

Introduction: Mention both stories and authors.

Mention and explain the concept of why treating others is important.

Strong topic sentence is needed

(3-5) sentences

Paragraph #2: Explain why Mrs. Washington treats Roger the way she does.

What is she trying to teach him?

How does she display humility?

Use evidence from the story.

(4-6) sentences

Paragraph #3: What do the children learn from their treatment of Margot?

How does the author teach us about humility through what happens to Margot? Use evidence from the story to support your answers.

(4-6) sentences



