

Summer Reading Assignment 2009
8th Grade

Each student that is moving up to 8th 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 must read:

Esperanza Rising by P. Munoz Ryan

In addition, students must read at least **one** of the following:

Freak the Mighty by R. Philbrick

Heat by M. Lupica

Nothing but the Truth by Avi

Ender's Game by O.S. Card

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by E. G. Speare

Short Stories (Students must read all six.)

"Song of Trees" by M.D. Taylor

"Old Demon" by P.S. Buck

"After You, My Dear Alphonse" by S. Jackson

"Charles" by S. Jackson

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

"All Summer in a Day" by R. Bradbury

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

Directions/Short Stories: Students are required to read all **six** stories provided in the packet and must complete **one** of the three short response / essay bundles. 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 is not necessary.

MAGEN DAVID YESHIVAH

SUMMER READING 2009

You have received a packet of assignments to help you remember what you read over the summer. Please bring the short story booklet and all your completed, written work with you upon your return to school in September. Please be prepared for a test on the summer reading and remember that the works listed below will be referred to throughout the year in your literature classes and assessments. While it is important to complete the summer reading and to remember what you have read, even more essential, of course, is to keep reading and to enjoy the world of literature!

GRADE 7 INTO 8

TITLE	AUTHOR	
Short Story Packet (required reading)		
◦ "All Summer in a Day"	Ray Bradbury	
◦ "Song of Trees"	Mildred Taylor	
◦ "The Old Demon"	Pearl S. Buck	
◦ "Thank You M'am"	Langston Hughes	
◦ "Charles"	Shirley Jackson	
◦ "After You, My Dear Alphonse"	Shirley Jackson	
<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (required novel)	Pam Munoz Ryan	
PICK ONE OR MORE TO READ!		
<i>Nothing but the Truth</i>	Avi	
<i>Heat</i>	Mike Lupica	
<i>Ender's Game</i>	Orson Scott Card	
<i>Freak the Mighty</i>	Rodman Phillbrick	
<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>	Elizabeth G. Speare	

Name _____
Dates you read _____

English 8
Summer 2009

Summer Reading 2009: Required Novel Assessment Form

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, using both physical and character traits.

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

Please summarize the plot in three or four complete sentences:

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

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

Name _____
Dates you read _____

English 8
Summer 2009

Summer Reading 2009: 1st Choice Novel Assessment Form

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, using both physical and character traits.

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

Please summarize the plot in three or four sentences.

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

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

Name _____
Dates you read _____

English 8
Summer 2009

Summer Reading 2009: Novel Assessment Extra Credit Form

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, using both physical and character traits.

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

Please summarize the plot in three or four sentences.

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

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

SHORT STORY BUNDLES:
CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE PAIRS OF STORIES TO WRITE ABOUT.

Story Bundle #1: “Old Demon” & “Song of Trees”:

After reading these two stories, answer the short response questions and one essay:

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

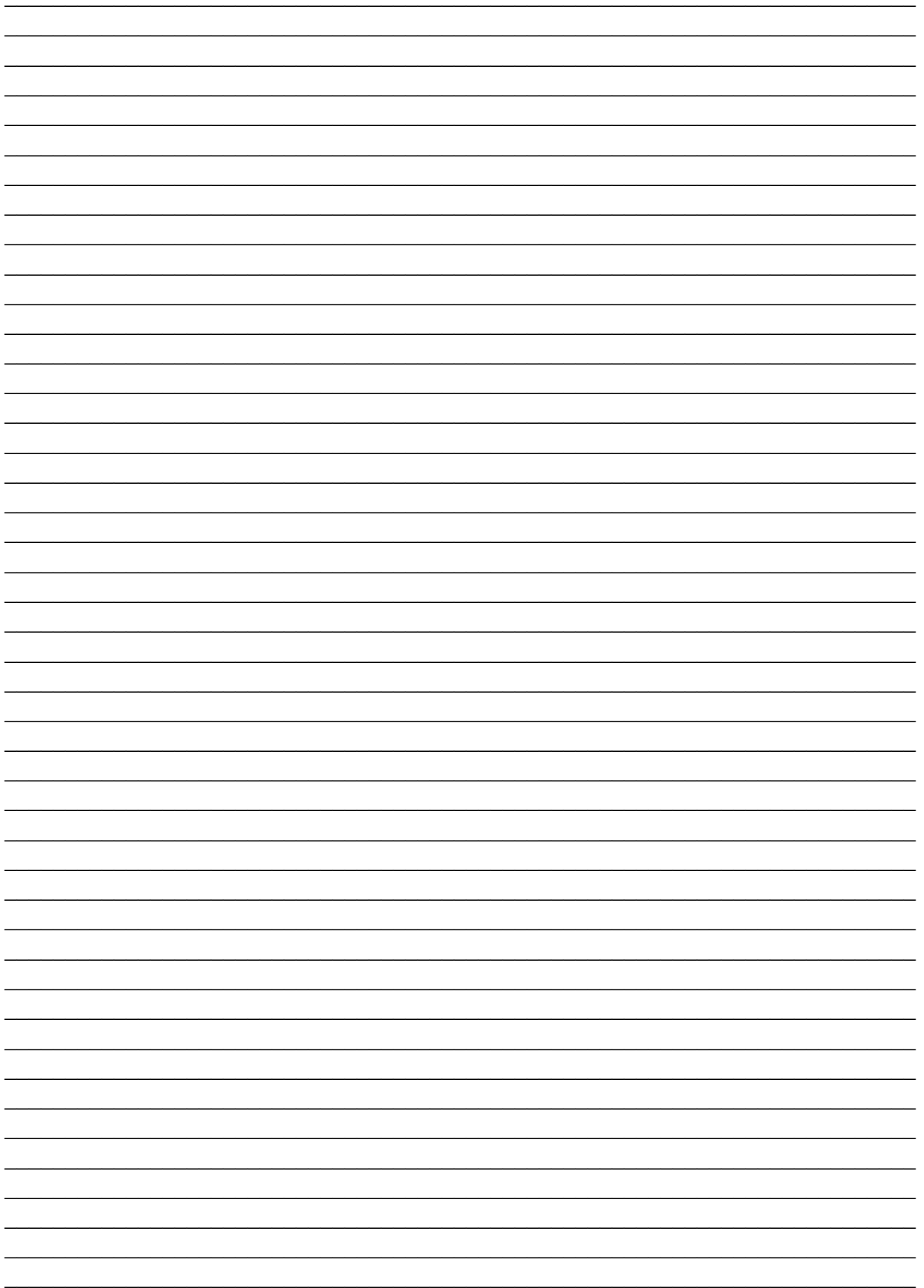
2. In what ways is Mrs. Wang a person who protects and supports life?

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

4. On the left side of the chart, list two character traits of David Logan.

5. On the right side, describe a scene that proves your claim (with page numbers).

Character Trait	Proof



Story Bundle #2: “After You My Dear Alphonse” & “Charles”

1. What incorrect assumption does Mrs. Wilson make about her son’s friend Boyd? _____

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

3. Were you surprised to find out Laurie and Charles's relationship? Why or why not? _____

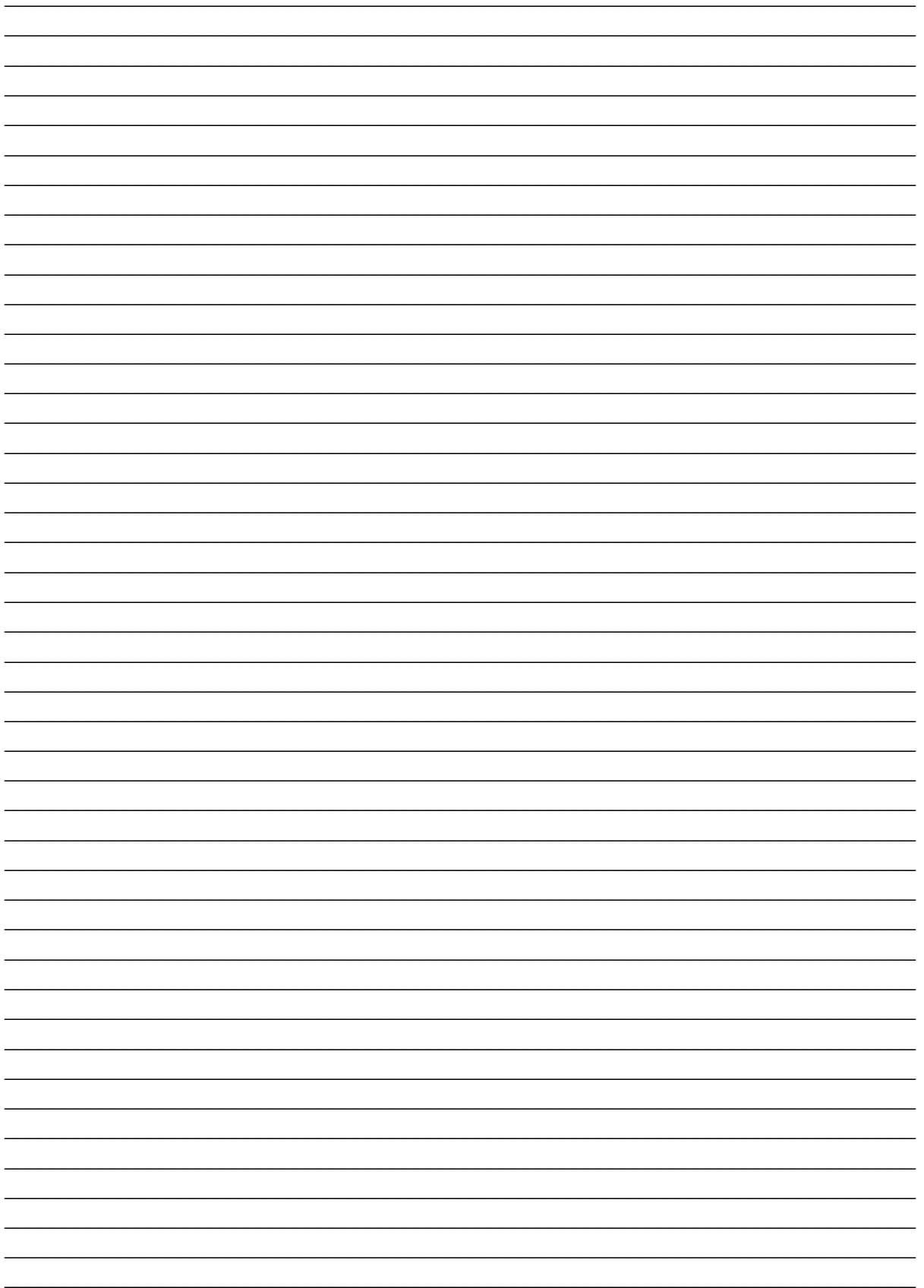
Essay question: An assumption is when you draw a conclusion based on little or no evidence. Often, assumptions can lead to incorrect thoughts or conclusions. Using the two stories you have just read, you will discuss how assumptions can lead to false conclusions. In a four-paragraph essay, explain how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

Introduction: Mention both stories and authors.
Mention and explain the problems caused by assuming things.
Use a strong topic sentence.
Include three to five additional sentences.

Paragraph #2: What is Mrs. Wilson's assumption?
How do we know she is incorrect?
Use evidence from the story to support your answer.
Include at least four to six sentences.

Paragraph #3: What does Laurie's mother assume?
How does her assumption lead to more confusion?
Use evidence from the story to explain your answer.
Include at least four to six sentences.

Paragraph #4: Conclusion
Sum up your essay.
Describe one or two other characters or real people who have unfounded (wrong) assumptions.
Explain why judging others based on assumptions can be problematic.



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? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

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.”

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?

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

Essay question: Learning 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 in which a lesson can be learned based on this concept. In a four-paragraph essay, you will explain how the situations each teach a lesson in humility (treating others well).

Introduction: Mention both stories and authors.

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

Start with a strong topic sentence.

Include three to five additional sentences.

Paragraph #2: Using evidence from the story, explain why Mrs. Washington treats Roger the way she does. What is she trying to teach him? How does she display humility?

Include at least four to six sentences.

