

Dear Parents of Rising Grade 7 and 8 Students,

Summer is a great opportunity for students to continue reading. It is also a sacred time for families to relax and reconnect.

The grade 7 and grade 8 middle school reading program ensures that students do not lose the literacy skills they gained throughout the year. In order to maintain these skills, students will need to complete a summer reading requirement.

Rising grade 7 students will all read Stand Tall, by Joan Bauer. Grade 8 students will all read S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders. Attached to this email is a planning sheet for the students to fill out. They are not required to complete it by the first day of school. We will dissect it after week one in September.

My hope is that the summer reading program engages, fosters a love for, and ultimately encourages lifelong readers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me over the summer and I will be happy to help.

Enjoy!

Ms. Pamela Principe

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"Once you learn to read, you will forever be free." Dr. Seuss

Name: _____

Literature Planning Sheet

(There is room for notes, annotations (*an annotation is a writing commentary or explanatory notes on a subject*), page number, etc. but you may also use a separate piece of paper) It will be very, very helpful if you list the page numbers.

1. **Conflict:** Make sure you know who the conflict (problem) is in the book. Explain the conflict. Is it a **person vs. person (two characters)**, **self (one character)**, **nature (outside elements)**, or **society (group)**? Find a quotation that highlights the conflict.

What decisions does the protagonist (main character) have to make? Explain.

Find a quotation that highlights the dilemma. In your own words, explain the problem. Cite the quotation. (Cite means give me the page number).

2. **Characterization:** Make sure you know who your protagonist is. Make sure you can describe his/her personality with **character trait words- not emotions or reactions**. Find a quotation that **SHOWS** what kind of person he/she is and explain.

Make sure you know who the main antagonist is (force working against the protagonist) - not the “bad guy”. Make sure you can describe his/her personality (if a person) with character trait words- not emotions or reactions. Find a quotation that **SHOWS** what kind of person he/she is (if a person) and explain.

Who/What is important to the protagonist? Find a quotation to prove it and explain.

What does he/she treasure? Find a quotation to prove it and explain.

What would he/she like to change about him/herself? Find a quotation to prove it and explain.

3. **Setting:** Where and when is the book set? Provide a quotation or quotations that describe both time and place. How does the setting add or affect the story? Explain.

4. **Theme:** What is the theme (message or lesson) of the book? It should not be one word. It should be a statement. Provide a quote or line from the story that proves the theme.

5. **Title, First Line, and Last Line of the book:** Make sure you understand the meaning and importance to the story. Explain. There should be a correlation with the three.

6. **Overall Summary: Fill in the sentence below:**

The book _____ is
about a _____ who _____ (*hint*
theme) _____ (s)