

8th Grade Humanities at PVPA: Summer Reading Packet **(For those NOT using GoodReads.com)**

Welcome to Summer Reading 2016! You will be choosing **at least two books** to read over the summer. You are welcome to read any books that you would like. Talk to your friends, your family, your teachers, and/or your librarian to find interesting books. It is also a good idea to read reviews online.

Please **write a review** for one of your books after you finish reading it. **In this packet**, we provide a template that you will use to write your review. A strong review includes a brief plot summary, detailed comments on the main characters (including traits, development, and motivation), and your opinions about the book (including the author's writing style).

We are also asking you to **write a reflection** for one of your books after you finish reading it. We offer a menu of prompts **in this packet**. You should write your review about one of your two books, and your reflection about the other book. In other words, you will complete either a review **or** a reflection for each book.

Lastly, please make a "**book wish list**." We have included a table **in this packet** that you should fill out to complete your book wish list.

Criteria for Success:

- Read two books (your choice)
- Write one review (for one book)
- Write one reflection (for the other book)
- Make a book wish list

Due Date: First Day of School!

Questions? Contact your humanities teacher:

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Book Review

Title: _____ Name: _____

Author: _____

Rating: ★★★★★ (Shade in the stars according to your rating)

Brief Plot Summary

Detailed description of the main character(s)

Include physical and personality traits. Give a clear picture of who the character is.

Your opinions on specific elements (plot, characters, theme, writing style, etc.)

Please don't just say, "I liked the plot." or "The characters were great." **Be specific and explain why.**

Recommendations for others (I recommend this book for people who like _____ and _____.)

Reflection

Choose from the following prompts:

1. Imagine a different ending to the book that you read. What would you change, if you could? Write an alternate ending for your book.
2. Pretend that your main character is in a therapy session. Write a script between the therapist and the main character. Be sure to show some of your character's traits!
3. Draw a portrait of a character from your book and label his/her characteristics. Be sure to include both physical and non-physical (personality) traits.
4. As yourself or as the main character in your book, write a letter to the author of your book. (You don't need to actually send the letter!) What would you like to ask the author? Do you have comments about his/her writing style or plot decisions?
5. Pretend to be a character from your book and write a journal entry as that character. You can write about an event from the story, or you can make up an event or situation. Include the character's emotions and make sure the entry reflects the character's personality.
6. Turn an event or a moment from your book into a scene from a play. The dialogue will probably stay the same, but how will you explain the parts that are narrated in the book? Consider including stage directions, technical cues, adding new lines, and describing sets/props.
7. Write a poem (in any form) about a character, scene, or theme in your book.
8. Is there a moment missing in your book? Add a chapter that explores the missing part.
9. Imagine that the main character in your book visits you at your home in 2013. If they're from a different time period, how do they react to your life? If they're from a different part of the country or the world, what do they think of Massachusetts? What would you do together? Describe your pretend visit with the character.
10. Write a conversation between two characters from the two books that you read. How do their worlds intersect? Can they communicate with each other? Would they be friends?

Reflection

Title: _____ Name: _____

Author: _____

Choose a prompt from the list, and write your reflection in the space below.

Book Wish List

In the table below, please write down at least two books that you would like to read. You can find out about these books by talking to your friends, family, librarian, and by reading reviews online. Feel free to write down as many books as you would like! You may be able to read these books throughout the school year for your independent reading projects.

Book Title	Author	How you heard about it	Why you want to read it

Happy Reading! See you in September!