

Name: _____ Class: 8.1 / 8.2 / 8.3

St. Joseph Middle School 8th Grade Summer Reading Packet 2016

Dear Parents and Incoming 8th Graders,

I am looking forward to beginning next year with a running start. Therefore, you have **two** summer reading assignments that will be discussed the first week of school. Reading is key to academic success, and most research suggests that students should be reading 4-5 days a week for at least an hour by the time they reach 6-8th grade, including over the summer. Reading improves content knowledge, promotes vocabulary acquisition, improves critical thinking, and fosters well-crafted writing.

Books are available at the Seattle and King County libraries as well as at any of the online or local bookstores. You are also welcome to find audio-books. If ordering on-line, do so as soon as possible to ensure availability.

1. Required Book #1: *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely

Assignment: Read *All American Boys* and complete the writing assignment explained on the pages that follow. This assignment is due in your Literature/ELA class on the **first full day of school** and we will be using it as a basis for assignments and discussion.

Note to Students and Parents: My 8th grade Literature class is a social justice literature course. Every novel throughout the year deals with relevant, contemporary social issues regarding justice and equity. All American Boys contains some sensitive content and language. If for whatever reason you do not want your student reading this, may I suggest you read it with them to spark conversation! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at alacasse@stjosephsea.org.

2. Required Book #2: Independent Choice: Select a novel of your choice that you have not read before to read during the summer. **This is an opportunity for you to read a book for FUN.** There is no formal assignment for this novel during the summer, but there will be the first week of school. So, read!

Happy Summer Vacation and Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Mr. LaCasse

P.S. If you misplace this packet, you will find it online at the St. Joseph School library web page.

8th Summer Reading Assignment:

ASSIGNMENT #1: *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely

During the novel, readers witness the discordant experiences of Rashad and Quinn, two young men dealing with fallout from a traumatic event. This novel has immense contemporary connection and you will immediately recognize some thematic connections between the story and issues that have been part of our national conversation.

- **Directions:** In a **three-paragraph mini-essay**, analyze a primary theme you've identified in *All American Boys* after reading the novel. Use one strong quotation in each body paragraph to support the theme and then provide **in-depth analysis** of the quotation (evidence) as it relates to your overarching argument. This essay should include an introduction and two body paragraphs.
- **Format:** TYPED, printed, Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced with a correct heading! Use the Writing Resource Page attached for structural guides.

MLA Formatting Review: All papers should utilize...

- Times New Roman font, size 12
- 3rd Person Point of View (*NO: I, me, we, us, you, etc.*)
- Double-spacing throughout (including heading)
- 1" Margins
- Heading Example
Britney Spears
Mr. LaCasse
Literature 8.1
18 July 2016

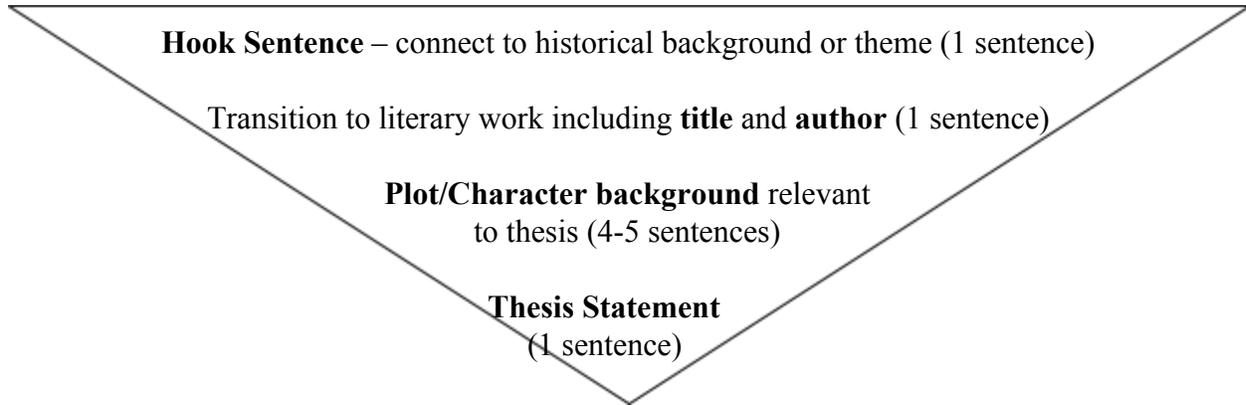
ASSIGNMENT #2: Independent Choice

Book title and author: _____

There is no formal writing assignment for your independent book choice. However, there will be an assignment within the first week of school that deals directly with this book. Come to class prepared to talk about the book.

Literary Analysis Writing Resource Guide:

INTRODUCTORY Paragraph: (7-8 sentences)



Body Paragraph Outline:

- ✓ **Topic Sentence (1 sent):** State the topic or argument of this paragraph
- ✓ **Context (2-3 sentences):** Connect your topic to the upcoming quotation. Lead into the quotation by providing necessary information What is happening? Where? When? Who is involved? Who is speaking? To whom?
- ✓ **Framing Sentence & Quotation (1 sentence):** embed your quote into a sentence.
 - As Michael pondered his future, “he realized that the best was yet to come” (Bryant 4).
- ✓ **Paraphrase (1 sentence):** explain or rephrase the basic meaning of what is said in the quotation and connect it to your topic
- ✓ **Analysis (3-4 sentences):** a full analysis of the quotations meaning, importance, and significance as it relates to and proves your thesis statement (what you’re arguing). Do **not** write, “This quote shows...” or “This quote demonstrates...” Just get to your analysis!