

# Cohasset Middle School Grade 8 Summer Reading 2022

*All students entering 8th grade at CMS will read two (2) books that are grade-level appropriate and that they haven't read before.*

We are offering student choice because we believe that reading should be enjoyable, especially in the summer. **Corresponding tasks are outlined below and must be completed before returning to school in the fall.** Although there is a minimum requirement, students are encouraged to read as much as they can! Reading helps with writing skills, critical thinking skills, and even better news: reading what you LOVE helps to do this. There are several book lists on the Grade 8 Summer Reading Blog that can help you find great books.

<http://cmssummerblog.weebly.com/grade-8-book-list-links.html>

*(\*\*\*Grade 8 Accelerated Students - see note at the bottom of this page. \*\*\*)*

## Summer Reading Blogs

**What:** Write two blog entries for BOTH books you read (a total of 4 blog entries) documenting the reason for your choice as well as a review with connections.

● **Before Reading Post:** In a short paragraph, explain:

- Why did you choose this book? Were you drawn to its genre, author, and/or premise?
- How did you discover it - recommendation, online browsing, found it in a store/library?
- What do you anticipate and hope to experience while reading this book?

● **After Reading Posts:** In a paragraph of eight (8) sentences minimum:

- Explain the book's premise/main plot, including what you thought of its characters and conflict.

Please do not give away the entire plot!

- Rate the book on a scale of 1-10 and explain why you chose this rating.
- How does this book help you view your life and/or the lives of others differently than before you read it?
- Support your ideas with clear details from the book to show your understanding.

**Where:** <http://cmssummerblog.weebly.com/>

**Why:** We feel readers should have an opportunity to share their thoughts on what they read in an authentic, community-building setting (like a book club, goodreads.com, etc.).

**When:** Posts are due by the end of the first week of school, but we recommend completing the blogs during the summer.

**Grade 8 Accelerated Students:** In addition to the four posts above, you will write one additional post that will be a compare/contrast of the two summer reading books you read. You may have liked one book much more than the other - explain why. If you liked both equally, explain why. Consider the *similarities and differences* between the books' protagonists, setting, and conflict to cause your preferences/reaction to the books. Make sure that your comments drawn upon details from the books and include substance and meaning.

## Grade 8 Summer Reading Rubric

To earn full credit for your efforts to complete the summer reading blog, please be aware of the following:

### **Book 1 Before Reading**

#### **Explain why you chose your book.**

- Post provides a thoughtful overview to explain what made you choose the book and how you found it.
- Includes your expectations for the book.
- Is written using at least 5-8 complete sentences.
- Follows capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

### **Book 1 After Reading**

#### **Provide in-depth details on your summer reading book.**

- Your post should demonstrate that you read the book.
- Post is a review that explains your opinion on the story and characters without giving away the ending.
- Post includes a rating (1-10) and explanation.
- Your post should include specific examples from the book to fully explain your thoughts.
- Is written using at least 8 complete sentences.
- Follows capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

### **Book 2 Before Reading**

#### **Explain why you chose your book.**

- Provides a thoughtful overview to explain what made you choose the book and how you found it.
- Includes your expectations for the book.
- Is written using at least 5-8 complete sentences.
- Follows capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

### **Book 2 After Reading**

#### **Provide in-depth details on your summer reading book.**

- Your post should demonstrate that you read the book.
- Post is a review that explains your opinion on the story and characters without giving away the ending.
- Post includes a rating (1-10) and explanation.
- Your post should include specific examples from the book to fully explain your thoughts.
- Is written using at least 8 complete sentences.
- Follows capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

### **8 Accelerated Compare/Contrast**

#### **Explain your preference between the two books, or if you liked both equally and why.**

- Post explains which book you enjoyed more or if you enjoyed both equally for different reasons.
- Post details similarities and differences between the books by referring back to the protagonists, setting, and conflict.
- Is written using at least 8 complete sentences.
- Follows capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

### Alternative to the Blog

If you would prefer that your child not participate in the blog activity, please review the following information, and sign and return this form to your child's grade 7 English teacher before the end of the school year. Please note that your child will not lose any points or credit for not using the blog.

**Alternative Blog Directions:** Instead of responding to the prompts on the blog, **please write your responses in a Google Doc or on a separate piece of paper. Bring your Doc or handwritten response to school within the first week of school to get credit for your work.** As a reminder, prompts are below:

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- explain why. If you liked both equally, explain why. Consider the *similarities and differences* between the books' protagonists, setting, and conflict to cause your preferences/reaction to the books. Make sure that your comments drawn upon details from the books and include substance and meaning.

Please send an email to [dmelia@cohassetk12.org](mailto:dmelia@cohassetk12.org) detailing the following (copy & paste):

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have reviewed and understand the alternative to the blog directions (above).
- My child will be completing his/her summer reading activity on a Google Doc or separate page **instead** of the blog.