

Part 1: Independent Reading (Fiction or Nonfiction)

Dear 8th Graders,

We are so excited to welcome you to our ELA classes next year! Please follow the instructions below to prepare for your upcoming year and bring your completed assignments in September. Have a Sharktastic Summer!

Instructions:

- Choose **one book** to read over the summer
- Read the book in its entirety.
- Complete **two reading response questions** below in **1 well-developed paragraph each**.

Reading Response Questions:

1. **Theme:** What is a central theme of the book? How does the author develop this theme throughout the story?
2. **Character Development:** Choose a main character. How does this character grow or change over the course of the text? What causes this change?
3. **Author's Craft:** Describe a part of the book that stood out to you. What literary devices or writing techniques did the author use to make that moment powerful?
4. **Personal Connection:** Make a text-to-self or text-to-world connection. How did this book connect to your life or to something happening in the world today?

Part 2: Creative Writing Challenge

Instructions:

Choose **one** of the prompts below and write a short story or narrative response (**1.5–2 pages typed or neatly written**). Use descriptive language, dialogue, and clear organization (beginning, middle, end).

Prompts:

- Imagine waking up in a world where books are banned. What happens next?
- Write a story about someone who receives a letter from their future self.
- Create a fictional story based on a true event in your life.