

Harvester Christian Academy

8th Grade Summer Reading

Students entering the 8th grade at Harvester Christian Academy are required to read two books over the summer.

One book is required (*Shiloh*) and one book is selected (see the list below).

Required Reading: *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

You will be required to keep a reading journal as you read this text.

Reader's Journal: As you read your assigned novel, you need to complete a reader's notebook. This reader's notebook should be 5 entries long. Each entry should be at least 5 complete sentences long. You cannot choose the same topic more than once.

Choose 5 topics from the Journal questions below:

1. Summarize the events of the last section you read.
2. Describe two of the main characters. Be sure to include physical description, as well as clues to their personalities. **INCLUDE A QUOTE FROM THE TEXT.**
3. Relate an event from the book to something in your own life. How were your feelings different or similar to the characters'? How are you like or different from a character?
4. Describe the setting of the book—either the book as a whole or a scene in the book. Include details about time and place, and why it is important to the book as a whole.
5. Predict what you think will happen in the next few chapters of the book. (Obviously, you must not be finished with the book when you answer this question.)
6. Write about the book's main idea and/or theme. What is it? Is there more than one?
7. Choose a scene from the book and describe it using lots of adjectives.
8. Select 5 unfamiliar words from the novel. These can be words that you personally don't know or that you think other students your age would struggle with. Give a definition for all 5 of those words.

Selected Reading: You may select one of the following books:

1. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain
2. *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
3. *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
4. *Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* by Lucienda Dyer

Read your book and choose ONE of the following creative components to complete:

- **Picture Collage** : Students will collect 15+ pictures from magazines or the internet and arrange them as a collage onto a poster board. On the back, students will write 2-5 sentences FOR EACH PICTURE, explaining why it was chosen.
- **Soundtrack** Create a “soundtrack” for the book. Choose 5 songs that fit the book. Explain how each song’s specific lyrics relate to specific parts of the book. Be specific.
- **Models/Artifacts From The Book**: Using a material like clay, wood, soap, etc., make 3-D models of FIVE objects that were important to the book in some way. On a card attached to each model, explain why that object was important in the book.
- **Model Important Scenes** Pick out the most important scene in the book. Build a full model of this scene, including buildings, surrounding nature, all the characters, etc., from the scene. You may use any building material to accomplish this goal. Models must be no bigger than a piece of poster board, but can be smaller. Include a short explanation (5-10 sentences) of why this scene is important to the story as a whole.
- **Children’s Book** Write a simple version of your novel that a first-grader could read and understand. Create a small book out of white paper, and write and illustrate your book. It must be a minimum of 10 pages long and at least 20 sentences total.

Reminder: You will need to read 2 books this summer.

***Your projects are due to your English teacher by the end of the first week of school for a Major Grade.**

*** Both of these will be due the first week of school, so do not procrastinate!**