



7TH GRADE HUMANITIES
2019 Summer Reading

Name: _____

Summer Reading Expectations: Letter-Essay Instructions:

- Write a letter-essay about *a book* you read this summer
- A letter-essay is formatted like a personal letter written to your humanities teacher, but it is meant to be deep and thoughtful like a longer essay for school.
- Each of the 3-4 paragraphs should be at least 7-11 sentences long.
- Type your letter or write it very neatly by hand.
- Use the guidelines below for writing each paragraph of your letter.

Dear humanities teacher,

1. Summary

- a. *Introduce the main characters, setting (where/when it takes place), and major plot points (what happens in the book).*
- b. *Make sure you talk about what happens in the beginning, middle, and end—not just one part of the story.*

2. Theme

- a. *What are you taking away from this book in terms of its morals or lessons?*
- b. *Think about the themes or big ideas of the book—such as poetry, family, fear, alcohol, violence, love, etc—and what the book has you thinking about these.*
- c. *Pick just one (or two) of these ideas and reflect on it deeply rather than trying to hit on every big idea in the book.*

3. Personal Connection

- a. *Which part of the book did you love the most? Which part of the book did you connect the most with?*
- b. *If you had a superpower what would it be and why?*
- c. *With that superpower how would use it to make a difference in your community.*

4. Just You

- a. *What should your teacher know about you and your family?*
- b. *What are the things that make you the person that you are? What are the things that someone needs to know about you in order to really understand who you are?*
- c. *Don't forget to include your dreams for your life at this point—what you want to do when you get older, what sort of life you want to live, etc.*

Sincerely,

[Your name]