

_____ 's

Summer Reading Assignment

DUE ON SEPTEMBER 1ST TO YOUR
8TH GRADE ELA TEACHER

(COUNTS AS YOUR FIRST GRADED ASSIGNMENT!)





Department of English Language Arts

Uniondale Union Free School District
933 Goodrich Street Uniondale, NY 11553

Dear Students and Families,

This summer, you're invited to dive into a reading experience designed by your ELA teachers, with support from the ELA director. This assignment is your opportunity to stay sharp, keep your skills growing, and step confidently into the 2026–2027 school year ready to succeed. This year, we are also partnering with the MBK Summer Reading Initiative to foster deeper learning through reading. Your summer reading assignment is as follows:

Student Expectations:

1. You must read one novel from the list provided.
 - You will earn your first ELA grade by completing the summer assignment, which has two parts: a creative piece and written assignment based on the book you read.
 - Detailed, step-by-step instructions for the assignment can be found on the next page.
2. Then, as an optional activity, you can select two other books for pleasure.
 - For the two books for pleasure, you must submit a 3 paragraph personal statement/reflection for each book you read. A personal statement/reflection about what you have read can include: What did the reading mean to you? What is your opinion, final thought, big question, or personal connection?
 - **Assignments will be collected on the first day of school, September 1, 2026.**

For the students who went above and beyond to complete the optional activity of reading the two books for pleasure, we will have a celebration to celebrate your commitment to excel during the summer months.

While we hope you relax and enjoy the summer, we strongly encourage you to review and maintain the skills you've developed over the past school year.

Please check your school website for more information, and order your 2026-27 school supplies.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Latty, Ed.D
Director of English Language Arts
Uniondale School District
516-918-1064

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

For the mandatory book, you will produce a **one-pager** based on your summer reading book. A one-pager is a single-page response to the independent reading book you have chosen. It is a way to communicate your understanding of the material in a unique way. A one-pager allows you to be creative and experimental. It gives you the opportunity to respond to your reading imaginatively and honestly. Then, when you return to school in September, you will participate in a **discussion or activity** based on your book and complete a **short in-class writing task**.

Directions:

1. Include all of the following activities on your one-pager

- Title and Author
- **Three** notable quotes or phrases that jump out at you. Write them down anywhere on your page. Use different colors or writing styles to make them stand out.
- **Three** visual images that create a “visual focus” on your one-pager. Your pictures should represent your visual interpretation of the reading. These images could be a symbolic representation of the theme or main idea of your reading.
- **A personal statement** about what you have read. What did the reading mean to you? What is your opinion, final thought, big question, or personal connection?
- **A theme statement:** what is the theme of the reading (if you are reading non-fiction, then write the author’s main purpose or idea).

2. Be creative. Make your one-pager colorful and interesting to look at. Everything on the page should communicate your understanding and interpretations of the reading. NO WHITE SPACE. Fill the entire page.

3. First Week of School Assessment

During the first week of school, you will complete a **short in-class writing task based on the book you read**.

Entering 6th Grade Book Options

- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Entering 7th Grade Book Options

- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

Entering 8th Grade Book Options

- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
- *Not Nothing* by Gayle Forman

Middle School Summer Reading Rubric (Grades 6–8)

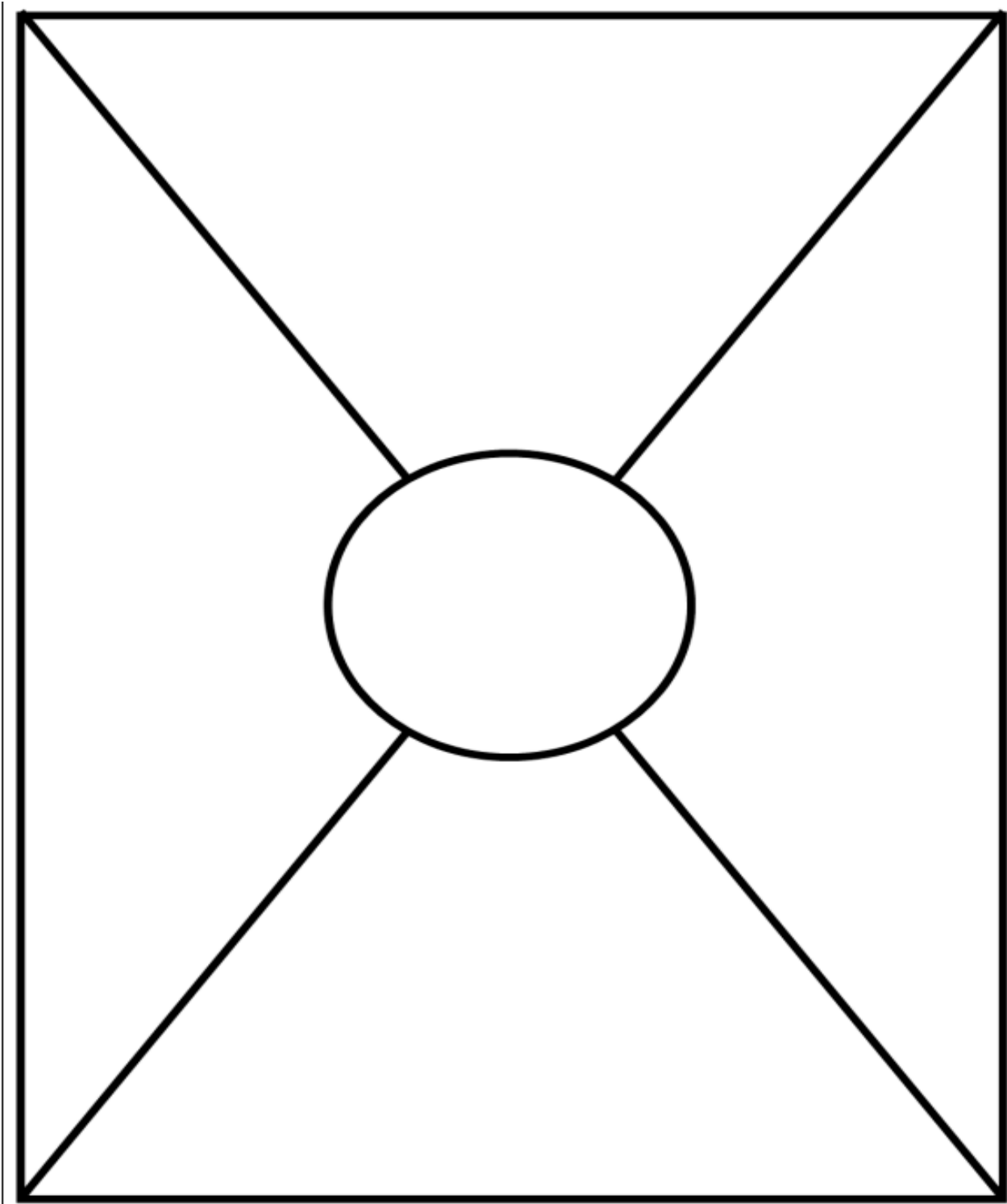
One-Pager + Written Response

Criteria	4 – Exceeds Expectations	3 – Meets Expectations	2 – Approaching Expectations	1 – Below Expectations
Understanding of the Text	Shows deep understanding of the book; ideas are insightful and clearly explained with strong examples	Shows clear understanding of the book; ideas are explained with appropriate examples	Shows basic understanding; explanations may be general or partially unclear	Shows little or no understanding of the book; ideas are inaccurate or missing
Quotes & Text Evidence	Includes 3 meaningful quotes that strongly connect to theme, character, or ideas; explanations (if included) are thoughtful	Includes 3 relevant quotes that connect to the text	Includes fewer than 3 quotes OR quotes are weakly connected	Includes 1 or no quotes, or quotes do not relate to the text
Theme / Main Idea	Theme or main idea is clearly stated, insightful, and fully developed	Theme or main idea is clear and accurate	Theme or main idea is somewhat unclear, too general, or partially accurate	Theme or main idea is missing or incorrect
Personal Statement / Connection	Response is thoughtful, personal, and deeply connected to the text; shows strong reflection	Response is clear and connected to the text	Response is basic or somewhat unclear; limited connection to the text	Response is minimal, unclear, or not connected to the text
Visual Representation	Includes 3 creative, detailed visuals that clearly connect to the text and enhance understanding	Includes 3 visuals that connect to the text	Includes fewer than 3 visuals OR visuals are unclear or loosely connected	Visuals are missing or do not connect to the text
Creativity & Effort	Highly creative, colorful, and visually engaging; entire page is filled with care and effort (no white space)	Neat and complete; page is mostly filled and shows effort	Some effort shown; may have empty space or lack creativity	Minimal effort; large blank spaces; rushed or incomplete
Written Response (1 Page)	Well-developed, organized, and detailed; clearly answers the prompt with strong examples	Clearly answers the prompt with some supporting details	Partially answers the prompt; lacks detail or clarity	Does not answer the prompt or is very incomplete
Conventions (Grammar, Spelling, Neatness)	Few to no errors; writing is neat and easy to read	Some minor errors; overall clear and readable	Several errors that may affect clarity	Frequent errors that make writing difficult to understand

Scoring Guide

- **28–32 points (90–100%):** Exceeds Expectations
 - **22–27 points (75–89%):** Meets Expectations
 - **16–21 points (60–74%):** Approaching Expectations
 - **8–15 points (0–59%):** Below Expectations
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This summer reading assignment will count as the first assignment in PowerSchool and will affect your grade.



Example of a “One Pager”:
Matilda Written by Roald Dahl

