

## Gateway Middle School: 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2025

Dear Rising Eighth Graders,

We are so excited to begin your eighth grade journey with you this fall. In order to properly prepare for eighth grade, you need to keep up your independent reading this summer. Students who read regularly not only grow as readers but also improve their knowledge of the world, vocabulary, and writing skills.

For this summer, your goal is to read TWO NEW books that you have never read before, each from a different genre listed below.

For **each** of the books that you read, you are responsible for completing a one-page summary sheet. That means on the first day of school, you should have **two different one-pagers**; one for each book. These must be handwritten with detail, color and creativity.

The goal of your summer reading and these responses is to keep up reading throughout the summer and show your teachers that you are engaged in analysis of narrative structures when you read.

Happy Reading,

Ms. Colen and Mr. Johnson

Below are the different genres. You may choose any TWO different genres. You can read any TWO books, as long as they are from different genres.

<b>General Fiction</b> Fiction that transcends popular novel categories—mystery, romance or science fiction, [etc.]—is called mainstream fiction.	<b>Historical Fiction</b> A fictional story set in a recognizable period of history. As well as telling the stories of ordinary people's lives, historical fiction may involve political or social events of the time.	<b>Mystery</b> A form of narration in which one or more elements remain unknown or unexplained until the end of the story.
<b>Fantasy</b> Fantasy is a genre of fiction that commonly uses magic and other supernatural phenomena as a primary plot element, theme, or setting.	<b>Science Fiction</b> Science fiction can be defined as literature involving elements of science and technology as a basis for conflict, or as the setting for a story.	<b>Adventure</b> A genre of fiction in which action is the key element, overshadowing characters, theme and setting. ... The conflict in an adventure story is often man against nature.
<b>Biography (non-fiction)</b> an account of someone's life written by someone else	<b>Non-fiction</b> A work in which real events and people are written [about] in novel form, but are not camouflaged as a fictional story.	<b>Memoir (non-fiction)</b> a historical account or biography written from personal knowledge or special sources

## One pager explanation:

### What is a one-pager?

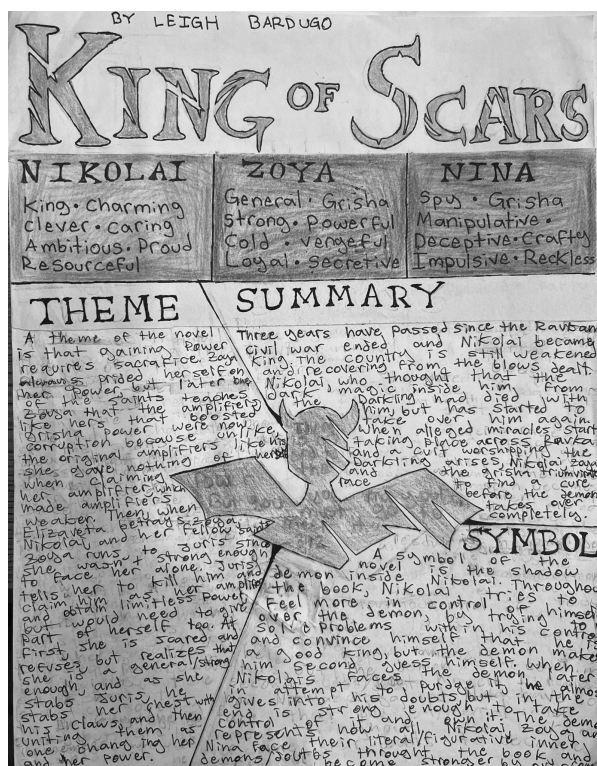
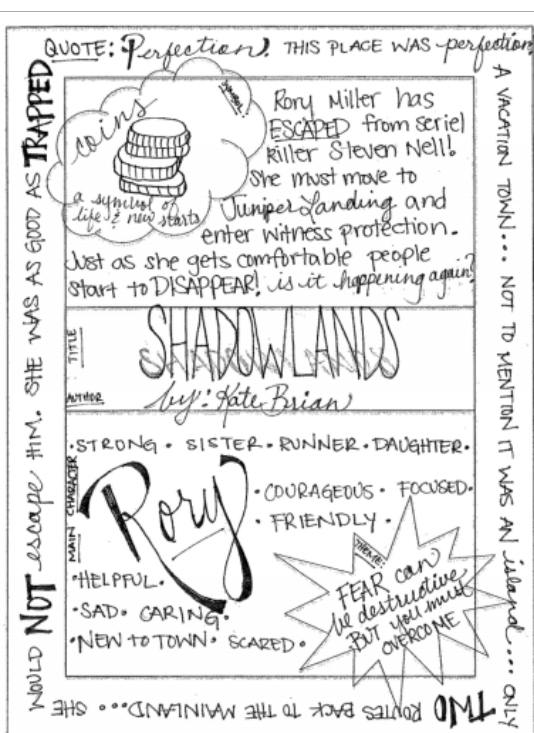
A one pager allows students to share their most important takeaways on a single piece of blank paper.

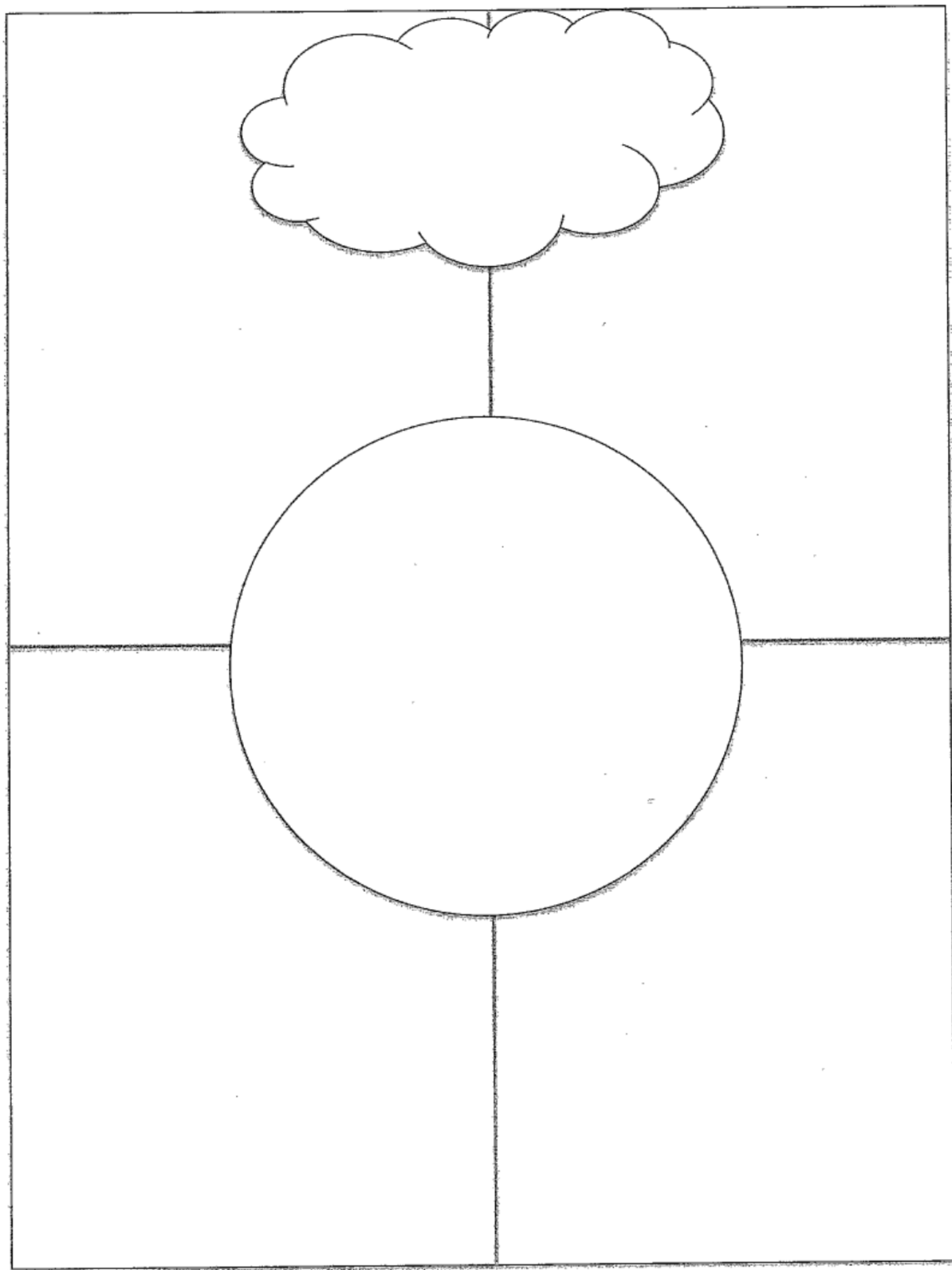
Each one pager should have the following elements:

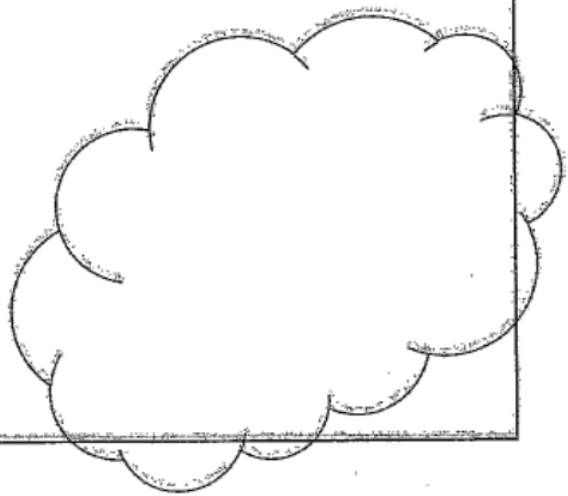
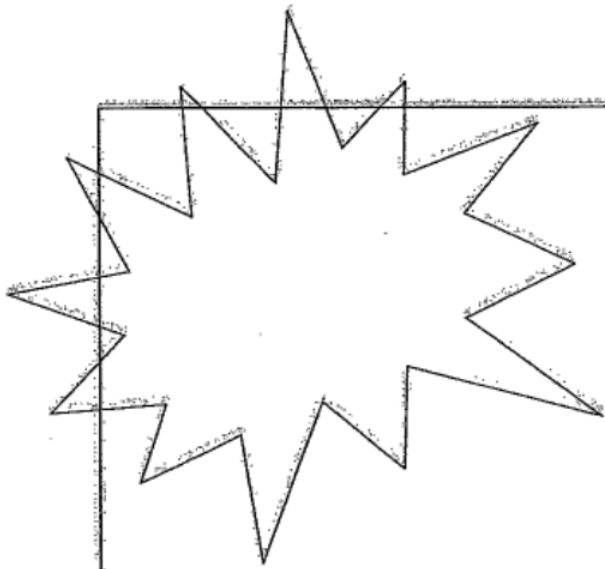
- ☐ Title and Author
- ☐ Brief summary of the plot of the book (or topic, if non-fiction)
- ☐ Main character description (or if it is a non-fiction book - description of a key person or main event)
- ☐ Theme or Author's message & **explanation (how is this theme present in the book)**
- ☐ Symbol (a thing (object, image, etc) that carries a deeper meaning & **explanation of how the symbol matters to the book**
- ☐ One golden line (a quote that stood out to you or made you think something new or different) & **explanation of why this quote is important in your opinion**

Rubric:

4	3	2	1
<p>In addition to the 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates deep understanding and complex analysis of the text in a creative way.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of symbol, theme, and golden line is complex and thorough</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Text complexity is challenging for you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Accurately demonstrates all elements &amp; shows comprehension of text.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clearly explains the symbol, theme, and golden line.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All work is clearly student's own.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Text complexity is appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Missing an element of the one-pager or is a superficial demonstration of comprehension.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shows misunderstanding of one element of the book or 1-pager.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Explanation of symbol, theme, or golden line might not be clear or needs more information</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Text might be too easy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work is incomplete or illegible.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some work may not be student's own.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Missing explanation of the symbol, theme, and/or golden line.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shows misunderstanding of more than 1 element of the book or 1-pager.</li> </ul>







Some ideas of books kids have enjoyed recently:



## Fantasy & Science Fiction

- ***Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins**  
This 2025 prequel to *The Hunger Games* trilogy delves into the backstory of Haymitch Abernathy during the 50th Hunger Games, known as the Second Quarter Quell. The novel explores themes of political manipulation, propaganda, and societal control under a totalitarian regime.
  - ***The Extraordinaries* by TJ Klune**  
A humorous and heartfelt story about a queer teen who writes fan fiction and dreams of becoming a superhero.
  - ***Infinity Son* by Adam Silvera**  
Set in a world where magical powers exist, two brothers find themselves in the middle of a war between spell walkers and specters.
  - ***Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas**  
A trans Latinx teen summons a ghost to prove himself a real brujo, leading to unexpected friendship and romance.
  - ***Wilder Girls* by Rory Power**  
A gripping tale of survival as a group of girls are quarantined on an island due to a mysterious disease.
  - ***Girls of Paper and Fire* by Natasha Ngan**  
In a world of magic and oppression, two girls fall in love while serving in the king's court.
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## Romance & Contemporary Fiction

- ***You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson**  
A Black queer teen competes for prom queen to win a college scholarship, discovering self-love along the way.
- ***I Wanna Be Where You Are* by Kristina Forest**  
A road trip rom-com about a teen ballerina chasing her dreams against her mother's wishes.
- ***The Gravity of Us* by Phil Stamper**  
Two teens navigate love and life when their parents are selected for a NASA mission to Mars.

- ***All the Things We Never Knew* by Liara Tamani**

A poignant story of first love between two basketball players facing personal challenges.

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## **Mystery & Thriller**

- ***A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson**

A high school senior investigates a closed murder case for her project, uncovering dark secrets.

- ***The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes**

A teen girl inherits a billionaire's fortune and must solve puzzles to claim it, all while dealing with the disinherited family.

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## **Historical & Realistic Fiction**

- ***Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Two sisters, unaware of each other's existence, are brought together by a tragedy, exploring themes of grief and family.

- ***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez**

After her sister's death, Julia uncovers family secrets while navigating her own identity.

- ***Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys**

A haunting tale of a Lithuanian girl's survival during Stalin's reign of terror.

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## **Graphic Novels & Unique Formats**

- ***Hoops* by Matt Tavares**

A graphic novel depicting the true story of a girls' basketball team's fight for equality in 1970s Indiana.

- ***Homebody* by Theo Parish**

A graphic memoir exploring a non-binary person's journey of self-discovery and authenticity.