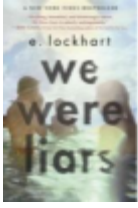


Incoming Grade 8

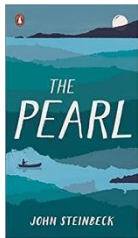
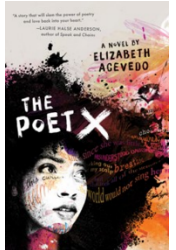


We Were Liars - E. Lockhart

Each summer the wealthy, seemingly perfect Sinclair family gathers on their private island, but there is one summer Cadence Sinclair cannot remember. (*Realistic*)

Poet X – Elizabeth Acevedo

A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. In the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.



The Pearl - John Steinbeck

One day, Kino, a poor diver, emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg and as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security...or does it? A story based on a Mexican folk tale.

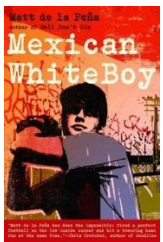
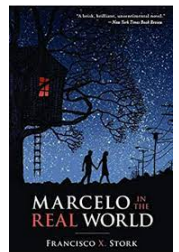


Scrawl - Mark Shulman

Enter the mind of a bully by reading his journal. (*Anti-Bullying/Tolerance*)

Marcelo in the Real World – Francisco X. Stork

The story of a summer in the life of 17-year-old Marcelo Sandoval, a boy with Asperger-like characteristics. This extraordinary novel encompasses a legal battle, a subtle love story, and the primal coming-of-age narrative: discovering the truth of one's own capacities.



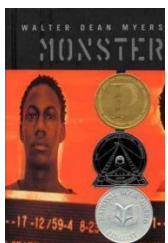
Mexican Whiteboy - Matt de la Peña

Danny's brown. Half-Mexican brown. And that means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, they've got him pegged.

(*Multi-cultural*)

Monster - Walter Dean Myers

Told from the point of view of Steve, on trial for murder: "Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie . . . I'll call it what the lady prosecutor called me . . . Monster." (*Common Core*)



Incoming Grade 8 - continued

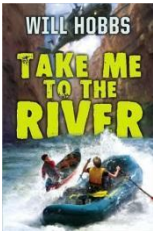
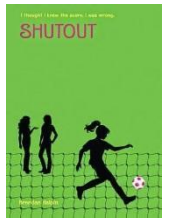


Endangered - Eliot Schrefer

Caught in the crosshairs of a lethal revolution in the Congo, Sophie and a baby bonobo struggle to survive in the jungle. *(Multi-cultural/ Adventure)*

Shutout - Brendan Halpin

Freshman year gets more complicated for two best friends when only one is picked for varsity soccer. *(Sports)*

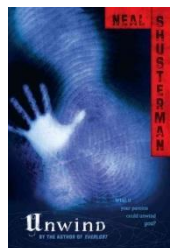


Take Me to the River - Will Hobbs

A canoe trip down the Rio Grande turns into a treacherous struggle for survival in the wake of deadly hurricane. *(Adventure/ Survival)*

Unwind - Neal Shusterman

In the future, after the Second Civil War, parents of problem children can have them “unwound” and their body parts donated. Three teens run away to try to escape this terrible fate. Continue the trilogy with **UnWholly** and **UnSouled**. *(Adventure/ Survival)*

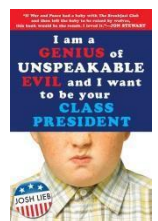


Good Enough – Jen Petro-Roy

In the hospital where she is receiving treatment for anorexia, twelve year old Riley records her days in her journal. She must find the strength to recover. *(Mental health)*

I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to be Your Class President - Josh Lieb

A mad evil genius who wants to dominate the world settles for the middle school class elections instead. *(Comedy)*

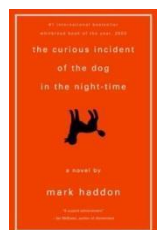


Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson

Melinda Sordino finds herself an outcast at her high school for calling the cops on an end of summer party, and, although she finds comfort in her art class, she still holds a terrible secret. *(Trauma)*

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time - Mark Haddon

A math genius who is afraid of people pretends to be Sherlock Holmes and investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog. He uncovers more mysteries than he expected. *(Mystery)*



Eighth Grade Summer Reading Worksheet

Name: _____

Directions: Please be sure to READ over this entire handout before reading the summer reading text of your choice. Use the worksheet WHILE you read. All responses should reflect your understanding of your Summer Reading book and be written in COMPLETE sentences.

Title of book (capital letters/ underline):

Author (first and last name):

Genre:

1. Why did you choose this book?

2. Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?

STORY ELEMENTS

Setting:

1. *Where:* Where is your character from?

2. *Where:* Describe the environment where the most important events take place:

3. *When:* During what time period / era does this story place?

4. *When:* During what stage or point in your character's life does this story take place?

Characters & Characterization:

1. Name of the Protagonist: Identify the main character (who is central, dynamic) who learns a lesson, whose identity is challenged, or who experiences significant change:

2. Characterization of Protagonist (Personality traits, etc.):

3. Name of the Antagonist: Identify the opposing character, group, or force:

4. Characterization of Antagonist (Personality traits, etc.):

Conflict:

1. Internal conflict(s) faced by the Protagonist: (i.e. doubts, fears, etc.):

2. External conflict(s) faced by the Protagonist (due to outside challenges / conditions):

Turning Point:

At what point did your main character experience the greatest challenge / moment of decision?
Describe this scene. Include details.

Evidence of Dynamic Characterization: Determine how the protagonist changed from the beginning of the book to the end of the book. The adjectives used as traits should most likely be **ANTONYMS!**

Example: At the beginning of the short story, “Retrieved Reformation”, Jimmy Valentine can be characterized as selfish but at the end he is characterized as selfless.

Character trait at the BEGINNING of the novel: _____

Citations to support the characterization at the Beginning of the novel:

1. Page # _____

2. Page # _____

Character trait at the END of the novel: _____

Citations to support the characterization at the END of the novel:

1. Page # _____

2. Page # _____

THEME: What lesson could be learned through the reading of this book? What might the author have wanted his/her readers to better understand about life?
