



Name: _____
ELA 8

June 2026
Ms. Rubino

Dear incoming eighth grade students and families,

I am looking forward to teaching you ELA next year! This summer, you are assigned the following summer reading books:

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| 1) <i>Sunshine</i> (2023) by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Brief Summary: A graphic novel memoir explores the author's experiences in high school volunteering at a camp for children with serious illnesses. |
| 2) <i>Esperanza Rising</i> (2002) by Pam Munoz Ryan
Brief Summary: A novel about Esperanza, the only daughter of wealthy Mexican parents, who is forced to flee to the United States after a tragedy befalls her family. This story follows Esperanza as she and her mother navigate a new life as migrant farm workers in California during the Great Depression. |

You should be able to find these books online, at the library, or at your local bookstore. I suggest a goal of **25 minutes** per day of reading. After you finish reading your assigned books, please complete the attached literary elements graphic organizer (LEGO) for **each** book.

A hard copy of both graphic organizers will be collected on **Monday, August 31**, the first day back to school. The grade for this assignment counts towards the first marking period independent reading score.

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,
Ms. Rubino

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Literary Elements Graphic Organizer (LEGO) #1

Book Title: *Sunshine*

Author: Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Point of View - Identify and describe the main character of the story. - What is the narrator's point of view in the story? (First person or third person?) <i>Provide two pieces of text evidence to support your answer. Include the page numbers.</i>	
Setting - What is the setting of the story? - Specify the main place(s) and time period in which the story occurs. <i>Provide at least one piece of text evidence to support your answer. Include the page number(s).</i>	

- What is the main character's central problem?
- Describe how the main character overcomes this problem.

Theme

- What is the theme (main message) of the book?
- Describe the lesson(s) that the main character learned in the resolution of the story.

Provide at least **one** piece of text evidence to support your answer. Include the page number(s).

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Literary Elements Graphic Organizer (LEGO) #2

Book Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Point of View - Identify and describe the main character of the story. - What is the narrator's point of view in the story? (First person or third person?) <i>Provide two pieces of text evidence to support your answer. Include the page numbers.</i>	
Setting - What is the setting of the story? - Specify the main place(s) and time period in which the story occurs. <i>Provide at least one piece of text evidence to support your answer. Include the page number(s).</i>	

- What is the main character's central problem?
- Describe how the main character overcomes this problem.

Theme

- What is the theme (main message) of the book?
- Describe the lesson(s) that the main character learned in the resolution of the story.

*Provide at least **one** piece of text evidence to support your answer. Include the page number(s).*