

The Brandeis School - Summer Reading for Grade 8 (entering September 2010)

Two Required Books+ Activity for Each Book

1) All students entering grade 8 will read *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*. Use **post-its** while you read the book, marking the pages which contain the answers to the study guide questions (see page 3). With these post-its, you will be discussing and writing about the book on your return to school. Your book will be checked on the very first day of school.

2) Students must **choose another book to read from the list below** and complete notes for the second book according to enclosed directions (see pages 4 and 5). Make sure your notes are legibly written or double-spaced typed.

3) If you have another book you would like to read, you must get it approved by Mrs. Cohen **BEFORE** the summer.

Susan Bartoletti's *The Boy Who Dared* is based on research on the Hitler Youth. When 16-year-old Helmuth listens to the radio, he discovers that Nazi Germany is lying to its people. But when he tries to expose the truth, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmuth's story emerges in a series of flashbacks.

In *Graceling*, by Kristin Cashore, Katsa was born with the ability to kill men with her bare hands, but can she find moral courage to stand up to evil rulers and fight for what is right?

In Eoin Colfer's *Airman*, Conor Broekhart spends his days dreaming of flying hot air balloons and inventing flying machines until murder and court intrigue send him to prison and labor in the diamond mines. (Colfer also wrote the well-known *Artemis Fowl* series)

Into the Wild- Jon Krakauer

After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. His diary, letters and two notes found at a remote campsite tell of his desperate effort to survive.

The Big Field- Mike Lupica

The focus is on one player's life in the run-up to the big game. Fourteen-year-old Hutch is the best player on his American Legion team, in the hot-shot position of shortstop — until Darryl Williams, an exceptionally talented player, arrives on the scene

In *Wake*, by Lisa McMann, Janie Hannigan can slip into other people's dreams. Do the dreamers know she is there? Can she help them overcome their nightmares? Or will they create nightmares for her?

Hoops - Walter Dean Myers

Growing up on the streets of Harlem, seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson dreams of making a better life.

In *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, Patrick Ness tells the story of Todd Hewitt, the last boy in a town of only men. And in this society, everyone can read everyone else's thoughts. Will this ability be helpful or harmful?

Keeping Score- Linda Sue Park

Maggie Olivia Fortini comes from a family of baseball fans. Her older brother, Joey-Mick, was even named for famous Yankees. Maggie, 9 years old going on 10 in 1950s Brooklyn, adores the Dodgers. We follow Maggie and her family over the course of four seasons. In the middle of all this, Maggie's good friend is drafted into the Korean War.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson introduces Jenna, who has just awakened from a year-long coma. As her memory begins to return, she has more questions than answers about the accident she was in, the person she used to be, and who she is now.

In Defense of Food- Michael Pollan

"Examining the question of what to eat from the perspective of health, this powerfully argued, thoroughly researched and elegant manifesto cuts straight to the chase with a maxim that is deceptively simple: Eat food, not too much, mostly plants. But as Pollan explains, "food" in a country that is driven by a thirty-two billion-dollar marketing machine is ...a loaded term."

Six Innings: A Game in the Life -James Preller

Sam Reiser, almost 13, a former star player sidelined by serious illness, is the play-by-play announcer. The book is framed around a single Little League championship game. We are rooting for Sam's team, Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies, against Northeast Gas & Electric.

In *Peak*, by Roland Smith, "14-year-old Peak Marcello's passion for mountain climbing is clearly in the genes, but when he is arrested for scaling tall buildings, his mom and step dad make a deal with the judge to ship him out of the country to live with her ex-husband. The teen's father, Josh, and his Himalayan expedition company are preparing teams to climb Mount Everest and suddenly Peak is faced with the possibility of becoming the youngest climber to reach the summit."

Yoni Netanyahu- Devra N. Speregen

Few rescue missions have succeeded like "Operation Thunderbolt," the Israeli plan led by Yoni Netanyahu on July 4, 1976, to rescue 105 hijacked Jewish passengers held captive in Uganda's Entebbe Airport. In her gripping biography Speregen introduces young readers to one of Israel's bravest soldiers. **Two other biographies** of famous Jews by Speregen are also acceptable: Albert Einstein and Ilan Ramon.

Maus: My Father Bleeds History-Art Spiegelman

The story of the narrator, Artie, and his father Vladek, a Holocaust survivor, in the form of a graphic novel. In it, the son gradually learns the full story of his father's history as a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust.

Narrative of Frederick Douglass Study Guide

Dover Edition

Directions: Use post-its to mark the answer to each question in your book. Also, write out a list of jots for the answer to each question on composition paper.

1. What is Frederick's memory of his mother? Who was his father?
2. How does Chapter 1 describe the environment in which slaves were forced to live? Give several details.
3. What kinds of power did an overseer have over his slaves? Think of several specific examples.
4. How wealthy was Colonel Lloyd? Give some details (Chapter III)
5. What is the story of Demby and Mr. Gore (Chapter V)?
6. How is Mrs. Auld different from the owners Frederick has met before? What changes does she undergo? How does Frederick feel about her changes?
7. How does F.D. learn to read? What particular effect did The Columbian Orator have on his understanding of slavery?
8. Captain Auld considers himself a very religious man. Why does F.D. disagree with him about this? (Chapter IX)
9. Chapter X is the longest one in the book and is certainly a turning point in F.D.'s life. Explain the incident with Mr. Covey and its significance.
10. What is the importance of F.D.'s Sabbath school? What does holding the school show about him?
11. How is F.D. captured before he has a chance to escape? What causes this capture?
12. How does F.D. finally escape? Why won't he give all the details of his escape in this book?
13. What are the details of F.D.'s love story with his wife? Who is Reverend Pennington?
14. How does Frederick's experience in New York City turn for the worse?
15. Where does Frederick go after he leaves NYC? Why does he go there? What is his problem when he gets there?

General Questions on the Entire Book

(These are possible essay questions)

1. What effect did slavery have on the people who owned slaves? Think of two or three specific examples and explain, noting names and pages.
2. What were the worst abuses of slavery from the slaves' point of view? Think of two or three specific examples and note pages as well.
3. Pick one example of an abuse towards slaves and show from the language in the description how the Narrative emphasizes the shocking and pathetic nature of the abuse.
4. Given Frederick Douglas' life experiences, the fact that he survived, let alone triumphed by escaping, writing this narrative and having a productive career, is remarkable. What specific personal characteristics enabled F.D. to survive? (Arrive at the answer by considering how he survived in two or three specific instances)
5. Identify five characters (other than Douglass) in the Narrative. Describe each person, and explain the aspects of the character that made him/her noteworthy to you.

8th Grade Summer Reading List
Notes Outline for Second Book: Fiction

Directions: Use this outline as a guide. Be as thorough as you can. Be sure to fill in your Notes Pages immediately after you finish reading your book.
Bring notes to class on the first day of school. Type or write clearly in complete sentences.

Title of Book:
Author:
Date Completed:

I. What is the **setting** (time and place) of the book you read?

II. A. Who are the **major characters**?

B. Choose **one** main character. Choose **two of his/her character traits** and write supporting details:

| Main Character: | Character Trait | Supporting Incidents |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 1. | 1. 2. 3. |
| | 2. | 1. 2. 3. |

III. On a separate sheet of paper, briefly list the major events of the plot. Focus on main events only. Include at least **10 events** from the beginning to the end of the story.

IV. Develop at least **two possible themes** [idea(s) the writer wishes to convey to the reader] for your book. Explain and support your themes.

8th Grade Summer Reading List
Notes Outline for Second Book: Non-Fiction

Directions: Use this outline as a guide. Be as thorough as you can. Be sure to fill in your Notes Pages immediately after you finish reading your book.
Bring notes to class on the first day of school. Type or write clearly in complete sentences.

Title of Book:

Author:

Date Completed:

I. What is the **setting** (time and place) of the book you read?

II. A. Make a list of as many conflicts that you observed in your reading of this book.

B. Choose one **major conflict** and write a well-organized paragraph explaining why it was central to the work of literature. (Write 8-10 sentences)

III. On a separate sheet of paper, briefly list the major events of the story or narrative. Focus on main events only. Include at least **10 events** from the beginning to the end of the story.

IV. Develop at least **two** possible **themes/messages** [idea(s)] the writer wishes to convey to the reader] for your book. Explain and support your themes