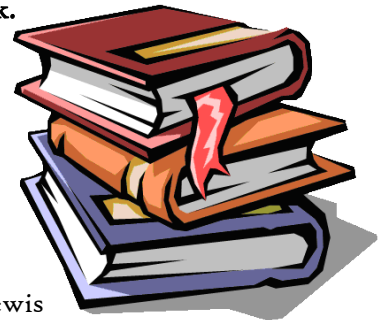


***Middle School Challenge Bloc***  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2016**  
**Due on the First Day of School**

This summer, you will read and write and get to preview a little bit of what we'll be learning in Challenge Bloc during the 2016-2017 school year. Here's what to do:

1. **Choose a book!** Your book should be *one that you have not read before* and based on a **culture other than current North-American**. It can be any non-current-North-American culture, real or fictional. *Due to the wide scope of this requirement, your book could fit under any of the following genres: non-fiction, realistic fiction, historical fiction (possibly), and even science fiction or fantasy.* However, there are a couple of rules about this assignment:
  - A. **Your book should probably not be part of any series.** It must be a stand-alone book that does not or will not need to have any prequels or sequels to be a complete story. Please note: You may use a book that is the first of a series as long as it is one that can stand alone (doesn't need sequels in order to tell the complete story).
  - B. **Your book must be about human beings/mostly human characters (no animals) living in a society.**
  - C. **Your book should be at or slightly above your reading level (based on MAPS scores or teacher recommendation).** Another option is to look at the College Board's List of 101 Great Books for College Bound Readers ([http://www.alevel-sz.com/sites/default/upload/1/files/201505/college\\_board\\_recommended\\_books\\_1431003022.pdf](http://www.alevel-sz.com/sites/default/upload/1/files/201505/college_board_recommended_books_1431003022.pdf)), as several books on that list meet the criteria required.
  - D. **The society must be fairly-well explained/explored in the book.**  
Here are some book ideas for you\*:
    - *Snow Falling in Spring* by Moying Li
    - *Tasting the Sky* by Ibtisam Barakat
    - *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barry
    - *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay
    - *The Hobbit: or There and Back Again* by J.R.R. Tolkien
    - *Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze* by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis
  - E. **Please do not choose *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding or any version of *Beowulf*, as we will be reading those two books in class together.**
2. **Summarize!** As you read, stop at each quarter of the book and summarize the plot so far. Note the pages included for each summary. If you are using a Kindle, please summarize in increments of 25% and note that in your project.
3. **Explain the setting!**
  - A. Quote a passage of at least 50 words that describes the setting. Note page/percentage number.
  - B. What is the location of the story? When does it take place?
  - C. How is the setting of the story significant? How does it relate to the action of the story? In other words, why does it matter when and where the story takes place? Is there another setting during which the same basic story could take place? Explain why or why not and **note important page numbers** related to your statements.



4. **Examine the Characters!** Write a profile of three major characters in the work. For each character, include the following: What is the character's role in the story? What is the character's importance to the story? What adjectives are used to describe the character? Support your profile with details from the text and note page numbers.
5. **Themes of History!** Explain **five** of the following themes in paragraph form as described in your book. Remember to note the page numbers where there is evidence of each. *Do not choose a theme if there is no clear evidence of it in the book.*
  - **Power and Authority**
    - Who holds the power in the culture?
    - What is the system of government?
  - **Religions and Ethical systems**
    - What is the major belief system? Explain.
  - **Revolution**
    - Are there any major or radical changes in this culture that occur in your book? Explain.
  - **Interaction with Environment**
    - What is the environment like in this society?
    - How do humans live successfully in this environment?
  - **Economics**
    - What goods/services does this society produce?
    - Who controls the wealth?
  - **Cultural Interaction**
    - How does this culture interact with others?
  - **Empire Building**
    - Is there evidence of one society attempting to take over or control another? Explain.
  - **Science and Technology**
    - What tools or methods do the people of this society use to solve problems?
    - How do they learn more about their world?
6. **Vocabulary!** Generate a list of 25 words from the book that are unfamiliar to you. Define each of these 25 words, including parts of speech. Cite their page numbers and use each word in an original sentence. Please underline or italicize the words in the sentences.

\*You are **not required** to choose from this list of books. If these titles don't interest you, go to the library or bookstore and explain your assignment to an employee. They can help you. Also, you could go to Amazon.com, and search around for a while in the teen section. You might find the best luck by searching for dystopian books. Have fun!

*Please note that this project should be completed in MLA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition format (as is used for the high school book projects), following these guidelines:*

- Heading that includes your name, teacher's name, date, title and author of book, and total number of pages.
- Double-Spaced (except for vocabulary section)
- 12-pt Standard Font