



Eighth Grade Summer Reading List

Nonfiction Title:

- *Do Hard Things* by Alex Harris

Bible Selection:

- The book of James

Fiction Title (choose one):

- *Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman
- *Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool
- *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Bumford
- *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Jo's Boys* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Eight Cousins* by Louisa May Alcott

*8th grade students are strongly encouraged to begin memorizing the book of James.

Summer Reading Assignments for 8th Grade

Nonfiction Title: Students should read the required nonfiction book and complete the attached book review.

Bible selection: Students will read the selection listed and complete five (5) SOAP journal entries based on this scripture passage.

Fiction Title: Read and annotate with the attached bookmark the chosen book.

All summer reading assignments are due on the first Friday of the school year.

Non-Fiction Book Review for 8th Grade

Directions: Please see the information below about each paragraph. Write your paragraphs in complete sentences with proper formatting.

Book Review (non-fictional work)

- Cover page** - 10 points - Provide a separate title page containing:
 - Author
 - Full title of the book
 - Publisher and year of publication
 - Number of pages (in your paper)
 - Name and grade
- Format** - 20 points - Your paper must be typed, 12 point Times New Roman font, and double-spaced.
- Theme** - 20 points - Your paper must start with a brief, but comprehensive overview of the theme of the book. This is a "Big picture" overview of the text. Mention something about the author and the purpose of what is written. Speak about the book taken as a whole. Note that this is not a book report, but a discussion of the theme of the book (1.5 pages max).
- Commentary**- 10 points -After addressing the theme, select a few things from the book that deserve comment, or you believe should be addressed. They may be notable (important to the book), or objectionable (things you disagree with). This will demonstrate that you have thought about what you have read beyond a literal level (1 page max).
- Biblical integration/Evaluation** - 20 points - How should one view this book from the perspective of a Christian worldview? Is the author's point valid or true? Is the argument persuasive? What are the book's strengths and weaknesses? Do you – as a Christian – agree with the author's views? Why or why not? In what way did this book change – or affirm – your own views, attitudes, and/or behavior? Etc. What Biblical connections can be made, if any? Does the book address issues that a Christian can apply to his/her own life? If so, how? Quote scripture passages that support your position.
- Conclusion** - 20 points - Conclude your paper with at least one paragraph, which either recommends or criticizes the book. This will be your verdict on the reading, so be definite in your opinion. (up to .5 page).

I read this book in its entirety. _____ (initial the line if yes)

If you did not read the book in its entirety, what percentage did you read? _____ Skim_____ ?

Student Signature

Parental Conformation of Book Completion

Fiction Book Instructions for 8th Grade

Select the piece of literature you would like to read this summer from the provided list. If possible, have your parents help you with that decision. Read summaries and reviews and choose a book that interests you. You must have your own personal copy of this book as it will be handed in to your teacher.

Print out the attached bookmark and make it double sided, you will end up with two (you only need one).

As you read, annotate your book. Annotation bullet points are below and listed on your bookmark.

- Circle unknown words.
- Mark themes in the novel as you begin to notice themes, come up with your initials to mark those themes.
- Highlight or underline any general truths of life you come across as you read.
- Ask questions in the margins or write a question mark when you are unclear of what the author is stating.
- Make comments in the margins that sum up what is happening or whatever thoughts come to your mind as you are reading make notes of those thoughts.
- Make a list of characters and their significance.
- Track the story parts: setting, plot action, climax, and conclusion of the book.

When you return to school in the fall your English teacher will have an assessment planned to determine how well you understood what you read over the summer. Please bring your annotated book and bookmark to school in the fall with your name written on both.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Pages Read: _____

Annotate the Following:

Circle	Unknown words
Mark	Themes with initials
Highlight	General truths of life
?	Ask Questions
!	Make comments or connections

List of Significant Characters:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Pages Read: _____

Annotate the Following:

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- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Name and Mark Themes:

Create initials for themes you see throughout the book.

For example:

Friendship can be labeled “FR”.

Theme	Initials

Identify the following story parts:

Conflict-

Setting-

Plot actions (3 or more)-

Climax-

Ending-

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S.O.A.P Journal Instructions

God's word is living and applicable to our lives at all ages and stages of life. In order to properly understand and apply God's word to our lives, we must seek to study His and hear what truths He has for us. We can do this by rightly dividing God's word, and spending time meditating on the scriptures that speak to our heart. In order to help our students divide God's word this summer, we would like for them to use the SOAP Bible study method. This method is simple but effective. Students will read their assigned Bible reading and complete the appropriate amount of SOAP journal entries for their grade level.

SOAP is an acronym for:

- Scripture
- Observation
- Application
- Prayer

Step 1 - S is for Scripture

After reading your assigned Bible passage, you will pick a verse that really spoke to your heart or stuck out to you. You want to keep this simple.

You will write out the verse and reread the verse a few times slowly. Take your time in this step.

An example verse could be Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.” - Philippians 4:8

Step 2 - O is for Observation

Observation is about what stood out to you about the scripture you chose, and what is the purpose of that scripture.

Take a few minutes and really ponder the verse. Write down a few truths you feel God is wanting you to learn. They can be warnings, truths, principles, commands, and more.

*You can take this to the next level and use a Bible Dictionary, Bible Commentary, or a Strong's Concordance. This is getting more advanced, but the extra effort is very rewarding.

Step 3 - A is for Application

The application section is more personal. This is a time where you think about what you observed and ask yourself if you are applying these truths in your life. If you are, list some examples of how. If you aren't, what are some ways that you could begin applying them?

Write down practical ways you can apply what you learned and make the Word come alive in your life.

Step 4 - P is for Prayer

Consider the last three steps and talk to God about it! Tell Him how the verse impacted you and how you desire to apply His Word to your life. Ask Him for grace, guidance, wisdom, and strength

to help you apply His truths to your life. Write down a prayer that goes along with what you learned from the scripture you chose.

Example:

Dear Father,

Thank you for your truth in your Word. Lord, I ask that you would help me and give me the grace to make you my first in every aspect of my life. That I would be one who seeks hard after your Kingdom and your Righteousness. God help me to trust you. That I don't need to worry about my day or the days to come, but that as I seek You, you will make my path straight. Thank you, Lord, for your love and goodness may it cover me all the days of my life. In the mighty name of Jesus! Amen.

Please print off and use the template below to complete your SOAP Journal Entry(ies).

Name: _____

S.O.A.P Journaling

Date: _____

Passage: _____

Scripture – Verse or verses that stand out to me.

Observation – What is the purpose of this scripture? What is God showing me?

Application – How does this apply to my life? What will I do about it?

Prayer – Thank God, and ask Him for guidance and strength to help you apply His truths.
