East Hamilton 8th Grade Summer Reading

The EHMS 8th grade English teachers welcome you to take a peek into one of our early units of study and/or explore the path to growing up. Choose one book below and complete the corresponding activities. All work is due when school starts back in August.

**During a cross-country drive, Jenna Boller gets a front-row seat to the workings of business and family. She deals with divorce, loneliness, and her parents’ troubles, but learns to rely on herself as readers explore the essential question: What are some milestones on the path to growing up?**

**Recruited into a military school in a futuristic world, Ender Wiggin trains to prevent alien invasion and save the world. His relationships with the other students provide a compelling look into the essential question: In what different ways can people be intelligent?**

**Esperanza Cordero sees a Chicago house as a key symbol of a new life and aspires to move from her family’s poor neighborhood. But there are many steps along the way to her independence all leading back to the people she left behind. Cisneros’s text offers insights into some milestones on the path to growing up but its sophisticated style can be a challenge. (An insightful read for students studying Spanish.)**

**When you’re the smallest kid playing a big man’s game, the challenges never stop—especially when your name is Danny Walker. Leading your travel team to the national championship may seem like a dream come true, but for Danny, being at the top just means the competition tries that much harder to knock him off. Now Danny’s leaving Middletown for the summer and heading to Right Way basketball camp, where he’s out of his element and maybe out of his league. The country’s best ballers are in attendance, and Danny will need to raise his game if he wants to match up. But it won’t be easy. Old rivals and new battles leave Danny wondering if he really has what it takes to stand tall. (This is the second book in the Travel Team series.) As you read, explore the essential question: What are some milestones on the path to growing up?**

**This classic novel provides cautionary answers to the question what are some milestones on the path to growing up? As Paul Baumer and his World War 1 German comrades experience the contrast between war’s glory and war’s realities. The young men must accept the role of random chance in their lives. (Be aware of graphic war descriptions.)**
Use this plot mountain to analyze the events of your novel choice. Use the grading rubric as a checklist to help you decide what details to include.

Name: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________  Period: ___________________________

Plot Mountain

**Climax:** What big events change the character and the problem?

**Rising action:** what does the character do to try and solve the problem? How does it get worse?

**Falling Action:** the events of the climax sort out (settle down) or may be the realization the reader makes.

**Conflict:** The character has a problem:

**Resolution:**
What happens in the outcome? How are the characters and/or the events of the story now different?

**Exposition:**
**Characters:** who is the story about?

**Setting:** where and when does the story take place?

Theme: ___________________________
Use a graphic organizer to chart important information about your choice read from the collection. Use a plot diagram to illustrate the exposition, the rising action, the climax, the falling action, and the resolution of the story you read. An example has been provided for you, although it is expected that you'll need either a larger version or an electronic version in which to type and then print. Make wise choices that allow you the room you need to clearly communicate ideas as well as demonstrate effort and neatness.

Use the rubric below to guide your decisions about the details and amount of information you provide. Be sure to interpret the story according to the rubric rather than just summarizing the plot. Notice the details we will be looking for in your work. Remember that themes are complete statements rather than a topic (Friends are important in a time of crisis rather than friendship).

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<th>Strong</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Needs Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposition</strong></td>
<td>The characters, setting, and conflict descriptions create a picture for the reader</td>
<td>The characters, setting, and conflict are accurately named</td>
<td>One or more of the exposition elements are missing or unclear</td>
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<td><strong>Rising Action</strong></td>
<td>Plot events are summarized, are logically sequenced, and include the change that occurs in the main character as a result of the event</td>
<td>Plot events are logically sequenced but lack summarization or character growth</td>
<td>Plot events are named but lack summarization and character growth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Climax</strong></td>
<td>The description of the climax accurately describes the event of high emotion/action and includes the main character's decision made that solves the story's conflict and ends the character's adventure</td>
<td>The climactic event is accurately described but lacks the effect on the main character</td>
<td>The climax named is actually a plot event. (Remember, the climax must solve the conflict that inspired the character to take this adventure in the first place.)</td>
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<td><strong>Falling Action &amp; Resolution</strong></td>
<td>This quiet after the climax includes two things: Moments where the main character fixes a relationship (or two) with those s/he was in conflict with, AS WELL AS Explanation of how the character's life is different than in the exposition</td>
<td>This quiet after the climax includes either: Moments where the main character fixes a relationship (or two) with those s/he was in conflict with, OR Explanation of how the character's life is different than in the exposition</td>
<td>Plot events that occurred are clearly described, demonstrating the book was read. But relationship building and change in the main character are not clear</td>
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<td><strong>Themes</strong></td>
<td>At least two themes are accurate and explained</td>
<td>One theme is accurate and explained</td>
<td>Theme(s) are named but lack description</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Graphic organizer is well organized and easy to follow</td>
<td>Graphic organizer is well organized but difficult to read</td>
<td>Graphic organizer appears as a draft, lacking revision of conventions (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar rules)</td>
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