

7th Grade Literature

For incoming 7th graders, summer reading will consist of two books: *The Big Wave* by Pearl S. Buck and a book of their choice. In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating. If you have questions about format, email your 7th grade teacher (mdurham@pcagreenwood.org). These journals and the project are due at the end of the first full week of school, in August.

During summer break, rising seventh grade students will read **one (1) book of their choice**. This should be a book not previously read, and it should be at least 150-300 pages. Students will produce a written response as described below, which will count as a test grade.

This assignment may be typed or handwritten. Instructions: 1. Read the book of your choosing from the 7th/8th grade reading list.

2. For *The Big Wave* by Pearl S. Buck, divide your novel into five (5) equal sections. Choose one meaningful passage from each of the 5 sections of your novel; quote it and write the page number of the passage. (Eg: Your book has 250 pages ... $250/5 = 50$. This example shows you should write a response every 50 pages.)

3. Next, use one response below to give your personal insight (NOT a summary) for each of the five passages. Provide a word count at the end. (Use the following examples only once so that you have a variety of responses.)

- a. This passage is important because...
- b. This passage reveals the...
- c. This excerpt makes me feel (angry/sympathetic/confused etc.) because...
- d. This character reminds me of...
- e. This character exhibits the quality of courage (honesty, etc.) ...
- f. The point the author wants to make here is...
- g. The author uses the literary device of (imagery/symbolism/theme etc.)...
- h. This setting is significant because...
- i. I agree/disagree with this character's decision because...
- j. This is exciting /boring because...
- k. The author does a good/bad job of...

Each commentary should be no less than 50 words in length. You should have a minimum of five entries.

4. Include a cover page with your name, the book's title, the book's author, and the book's page count.

Example:

Passage 1: "Fire swamps are, of course, entirely misnamed...Simply, there are swamps which contain a large percentage of sulfur and other gas bubbles that burst continually into flame. They are covered with lush giant trees that shadow the ground, making the flame bursts seem particularly dramatic. Because they are dark, they are almost always quite moist, thereby attracting the standard insect and alligator community that prefers a moist climate" (page 199).

Response: The author uses imagery in this passage when describing the fire swamps. The writing is very powerful that I could understand in my mind the immense, dark swamp like something out of a fairy tale, only with jets of flames popping up. The author does a fantastic job describing the swamps and why they were such a traumatic event for Florin and Guilder.

(64 words)

Part 2: *Story of your Choice* → Project of your choice

Below is a list of options for students to choose from for their second project. The only requirement for this book is that it must be at least 150 pages long and students must not have previously read the book. Parents, please make sure that your students are reading books that you deem appropriate. You may also want to consider the books from SCISA's Middle School Battle of the Books List.

Suggested 7th & 8th Grade Reading List:

Miracles on Maple Hill	Virginia Sorensen
Rascal	Sterling North
The Bronze Bow	Elizabeth Speare
Amos Fortune: Free Man	Elizabeth Yates
The Light in the Forest	Conrad Richter
Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell
The Phantom Tollbooth	Norton Juster
Adam of the Road	Elizabeth Gray
Redwall Series	Brian Jacques
The Secret Garden	Francis Burnet

Snow Treasure	Marie Mcswigan
Across Five Aprils	Irene Hunt
Trumpeter of Krakow	Eric Kelly
White Fang	Jack London
The Yearling	Marjorie Rawlings
Swiss Family Robinson	Johann Wyss
The Red Badge of Courage	Stephen Crane
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	John Boyne
Fever, 1793	Laurie Anderson
The Incredible Journey	Sheila Burford
Carry on Mr. Bowditch	Jean Lee Latham

Project Options:

Choose one of the following:

- **Google Slides** → Build an interactive presentation that leads the audience through a story summary (that does not give away the ending!!). It should include images, text, and embedded video. Your goal is to invite the audience to also read the book. You must include an introduction of your characters, an overview of plot, and a thematic statement.
- **Setting Diorama** → Create a high quality shoebox diorama of a scene from the book you read. Write a detailed explanation of the scene and attach it to the diorama.
- **Board Game** → Based on the theme of the story, create a game that includes at least 10-12 trivia cards related to the plot, playing pieces that represent the characters, a method of movement and hazards related to the conflict(s) in the novel, and a detailed rule book.
- **Reading Reflections** → Choose and retell 2 main events from the book. For both events, explain your personal connections and support those connections with a personal story. All of your ideas must be thoroughly thought through and you must present them in the form of a scrapbook or a poster.
- **Children's Pop-up Book** → Create a pop-up book that contains a minimum of 6 pop-up elements based on the book's content. The pictures and pop-ups must be paired with text.
- **Map Creation:** Make a quality map and retrace the journey of a character or characters in the story. Be sure to identify important places and events. Orally present your map to the class.
- **Pictorial Timeline:** Construct a quality pictorial timeline that summarizes what happens in the story. Orally present the timeline to the class.
- **Newspaper Article:** Develop a front page for a newspaper using incidents from the story. The page must have a title for the paper, headlines, bylines, datelines, picture with captions, as well as stories. Use a 12X18 piece of construction paper or poster board.. Orally present the "front page news".