

English 8

2016 Summer Reading Assignment

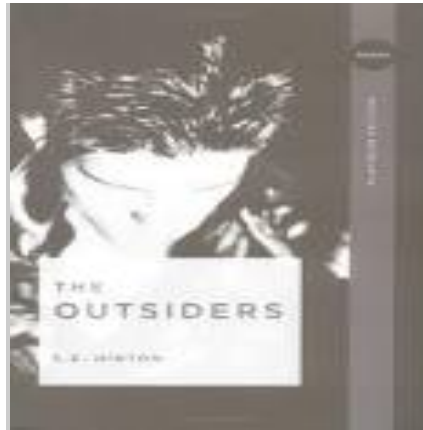
Dear Eighth Grader,

Hooray! Summer has almost arrived! As an upperclassman, however, summer does come with responsibilities. First and foremost, you must use your summer as a time to savor the blessings of your young life—grow in your faith in God, serve others, invest in family and friends, create memories, travel, try something new— You get the idea.

Second, as a maturing young adult and budding scholar, it is essential that you keep your thinking and creative juices flowing over these next months. To that effect, I bring you: your summer reading assignments! Notice the exclamation point used in the preceding sentence. The use of this end punctuation means that I want you to be excited about the tasks you are about to complete. Contrary to popular belief, they are not designed to torture you. Instead, young scholar, brace yourself to experience the thrills of literary intrigue and adventure, as well as the delights of utter immersion in a book of your choosing.

Task 1-Read for Literary Experience!

- 1. Read S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* (ISBN-13: 9780142407332, Penguin Group)



2. Be prepared to discuss and be tested over the book the first few days of school. You will need to bring it to class every day until I tell you otherwise.

Task 2- Read for Enjoyment, Information, and Inspiration!

1. Read a non-fiction book of your choice from the list of titles (on the back of the handout). This book should be one that most captures your interest—it entices you! Make sure your parent agrees with your selection as well.

Choose one non-fiction title from this list:

- Devil at My Heels*—Louis Zamperini
- Kisses From Katie*—Katie Davis
- The Heavenly Man: The Remarkable True Story of Chinese Christian Brother Yun*—Brother Yun
- Me, Myself, and Bob*—Phil Vischer
- Double Play*—Ben and Julianna Zobrist
- Life Without Limits*—Nick Vujicic

When you have finished your book...

2. Write a **minimum one-page**, size 11 font (Calibri) or 12 font (Times New Roman), single-spaced, **letter** to me (Mrs. Steed). Tell me about **your experience** reading this book. **Avoid** telling me all about what happened (the plot). Share how reading this book somehow changed your way of thinking about yourself and/or the world around you. Perhaps this book somehow reminded you of a Biblical truth that you'd like to discuss. Or perhaps you made a connection between yourself and a character or an event in the story. For example: Did the book mirror your life in some way? What questions about life did the story raise in your mind? How has reading this book affected you? How do you think? What do you believe?

*Be sure to follow the **friendly letter format**. (See example on page 3 of this packet)

***These will be collected on the first day of school.**

I hope you will be blessed by your reading this summer! I prayerfully look forward to meeting you in August!

Your Teacher,

Mrs. Steed

First Day of School Checklist!

Do you have your...?

- Copy of *The Outsiders*
 - Typed, Friendly Letter
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