

THE SELWYN SCHOOL
SUMMER REQUIRED ACTIVITIES
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 8TH GRADE

As an integral part of Selwyn's Middle School program, we strive to ensure that all of our students are actively reading, writing, and thinking during the summer break. **All students entering 8th grade must read two books and complete a book report over the summer.**

The first book is ***Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi***. We will work with this book in our Humanities class throughout the first several weeks of school.

The second book is a **literary classic** of the student's choice. The attached list provides book suggestions along with the book's reading level based on the vocabulary used in the book. Students will write a report over this book using the formatting instructions on the information sheet. This book report should be turned in on the first day of class. Once school has begun, we will begin preparing for an oral presentation and participation in *Come to School Dressed as a Character from Summer Reading Day* which will take place later in the 1st interim. Each student will dress up as his or her favorite character from their literary classic and visit the preschool, lower school, or upper school, telling the audience about the character he or she has chosen to portray.

Middle School Summer Reading List of Classics

Title	Author	Reading Level
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea	Jules Verne	7.6
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	8
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	8.3
Animal Farm	George Orwell	8.8
Anne of Green Gables	L.M. Montgomery	7.5
Around the World in Eighty Days	Jules Verne	8.6
Beloved	Toni Morrison	9+
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	5
Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Mark Twain	6.9
David Copperfield	Charles Dickens	8
Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank	7
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	7
Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift	8.8
Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	9+
Hans Brinker, Or the Silver Skates	Mary Mapes Dodge	8
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou	Maya Angelou	9+
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	9
Johnny Tremain	Esther Forbes	6

Journey to the Center of the Earth	Jules Verne	6
Joy Luck Club	Amy Tan	9
Life of Pi	Yan Martel	8
Little House on the Prairie (any book in series)	Laura Ingalls Wilder	5
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	8.6
Miracle Worker	William Gibson	6
My Antonia	Willa Cather	8
Old Yeller	Fred Gibson	5.8
Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	9
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	8
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	9.2
The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	8
The Black Stallion	Walter Farley	5.1
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	7.3
The Hobbit (any book in series)	J.R.R. Tolkein	7.5
The Hunchback of Notre Dame	Victor Hugo	8
The Last of the Mohicans	James Fennimore Cooper	7
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (any book in series)	C.S. Lewis	6
The Little Prince	Antoine de Saint-Exupery	8.2
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle	8.2
The Old Man and the Sea	Ernest Hemingway	9
The Pearl	John Steinbeck	6
The Prince and the Pauper	Mark Twain	6
The Red Badge of Courage	Stephen Crane	7
The Road	Cormac McCarthy	9
The Swiss Family Robinson	Johann Wyss	8.9
The Three Musketeers	Alexandre Dumas	7.7
The Time Machine	H.G. Wells	5
The War of the Worlds	H.G. Wells	7.9
The Wizard of Earthsea	Ursula Leguin	7
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neal Hurston	9
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	9
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	8
Watership Down	Richard Adams	7.6
White Fang	Jack London	7.7
Woman Hollering Creek	Sandra Cisneros	8
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	9

BOOK REPORT FORMAT FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADE

APPEARANCE

If Handwritten: Reports should be in cursive that is neat and legible. Both left and right margins should be observed and all paragraphs should be indented. You should skip a line in-between paragraphs and do not write on the bottom line on the page. Use both sides of the paper.

If Typed: Typewritten reports should be in black ink using a 12-point font such as Calibri, Ariel, or Times New Roman. The report should be double spaced with no extra spacing between paragraphs and can be printed either on either one or both sides of the paper.

COVER PAGE

The report should have a separate cover page that contains your name, the date (month, year) and the following information:

- Title of Book
- Genre
- Copyright Year
- Author
- Publisher
- A relevant graphic

INTRO PARAGRAPH

The introductory paragraph should focus on the author and include information such as personal background and their importance as a writer. Avoid statements such as “This book report is about . . .” or “I am writing about . . .”

SUMMARY

The next paragraph should be a summary of the plot. You should include the book’s title, the setting, main characters, and basic action of the book. Hit the highlights and main events without giving a complete retelling of the story.

ANALYSIS

Include an analysis paragraph for each of the following topics. Use good detail and include examples from the book to support your opinion.

- What theme did you see in this book? Explain the theme and give at least three specific examples of the theme in the book.
- Pick an interesting or meaningful quote from the book to analyze. Include the meaning and context of the quote and why you found it interesting or important.
- What lesson is the author trying to teach?
- Your personal response to the book which includes your favorite and least favorite characters and why, and your favorite and least favorite part of the book and why.

CONCLUSION

Your closing paragraph should state your overall impression of the book, whether or not you recommend this book to others, and what type of reader would enjoy the book. Be sure to explain why you feel the way that you do. The conclusion should also include any awards the author won for the book, and may also include reviews of the book. For example, you may write “The *New York Times* calls this the year’s best book.” This shows that many other people enjoyed the book, too.