

SUMMER READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS 2009-2010
LANIER MIDDLE SCHOOL - INCOMING VANGUARD SIXTH GRADE

Hello from your 6th grade "Literacy" (reading and writing) teachers. We are excited about next school year and look forward to meeting you. Middle school is an exciting time - and as "the new kids" you have the opportunity to begin this adventure with a resolution to be the best you can be. We are here to help you achieve that goal.

We hope you enjoy your summer and view it as a time to relax and have some fun. We also hope you will continue to read as much as you can this summer. Studies show that reading at least 5 books over the summer helps you keep - and improve - your reading skills. If you can read, you will succeed! **Be sure to keep a list of the books you read; you may be eligible for prizes as part of the HISD Millionaire's Club!** See <http://www.hisdlibraryservices.org/millionaire/> for information regarding Club requirements. *Students who read 5 books and participate in the HISD Millionaire's Club by will begin the school year with FIVE READING CLASS BONUS POINTS in addition to Millionaire Club privileges.*

To help us get to know you and get the new school year off to a great start, **assignment three is due Wednesday, August 26. Assignments One and Two are due Monday, August 31.** You will receive a "completion grade" on these assignments.

ASSIGNMENT ONE: READING

Read (or re-read) *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. This book will be the basis for class activities during the first weeks of school. It also relates to a mythology unit we do in the spring. *You will be asked to write about your reactions to the book during the first weeks of school*

Prepare a Venn Diagram (sample attached) showing the following:

- **THREE similarities** between *The Lightning Thief* and the book you read for Assignment Two (center, overlapping circle);
- **THREE differences** between *The Lightning Thief* and the book you read for Assignment Two (left and right non-overlapping circle parts)
- A two to three sentence **CONCLUSION** stating what can be learned from the similarities and differences between *The Lightning Thief* and the book you read for Assignment Two. For example, you might reach a conclusion about how setting influences plot or how authors use characters or tell a story (plot development).

ASSIGNMENT TWO: READING

- Read at least one book of *your choice* from the Lone Star or Newberry Award reading lists. A handout listing just some of these exciting books is attached. Additional listings are posted on the Lanier website.

- After you read this book, complete **ONE** of the following projects on **ONE** sheet of 8-1/2 x 11 lined paper, double spaced. (Typing optional and permitted.):
 - Pretend you are an interior decorator, and it is your job to decorate the bedroom of one of the main characters. Draw (or create a diorama of) this room and write a one-page explanation of why you chose the decorations you used. Relate your choices to events in the book.
 - Write a one-page explanation of where the main character would prefer to vacation and why. Illustrate the explanation using your own drawings or pictures from magazines or the internet.
 - Draw a map to illustrate the setting of your book. Write a one-page explanation describing the setting(s) in the book and the major plot events that occurred.
 - Write a one-page explanation of any **ONE** of the following:
 - What you think happened to the main character after the book ended
 - Why this book should be included in a capsule to be dug up in one-hundred years
 - How and why a Martian would react to this book.
 - Draw a portrait of your favorite character. On one page, describe your character and explain how your character relates to major plot events.
 - Draw a comic strip that relates to one of the scenes or characters in the book.
 - Create a "WANTED" poster for the main character. Include a paragraph explaining the character's personality. Offer a reward!
 - Write a five-line "easy" poem about your book: a noun, then two adjectives, then three verbs, then a thought about the noun, and finally a synonym for the noun. Illustrate your poem using pictures that relate to the story.
 - Make a crossword puzzle from your book. Include a separate, one-page explanation of why you chose the words you used in the puzzle.

ASSIGNMENT THREE: WRITING

- On **ONE** sheet of 8-1/2 x 11 **PLAIN, UNLINED** paper, illustrate you in a creative way that shows **FIVE** things about you. This "poster" should include your name in the upper right-hand corner. You may use photographs, original drawings or create a collage using pictures from magazines or the internet. *Have fun!*
- On the **bottom** of this "poster," write **three good sentences** about yourself. These sentences should include where you attended elementary school, something about your family, and something about what you liked about your language arts and reading classes. Spelling counts!
- Use your best writing skills. This assignment counts as a "completion grade," and we will use it to introduce ourselves to each other the first week of school.

Have fun and see you in August!

Remember: Assignment Three is due August 26, Wednesday.

Assignments One and Two are due Monday, August 31.

Some Reading Suggestions

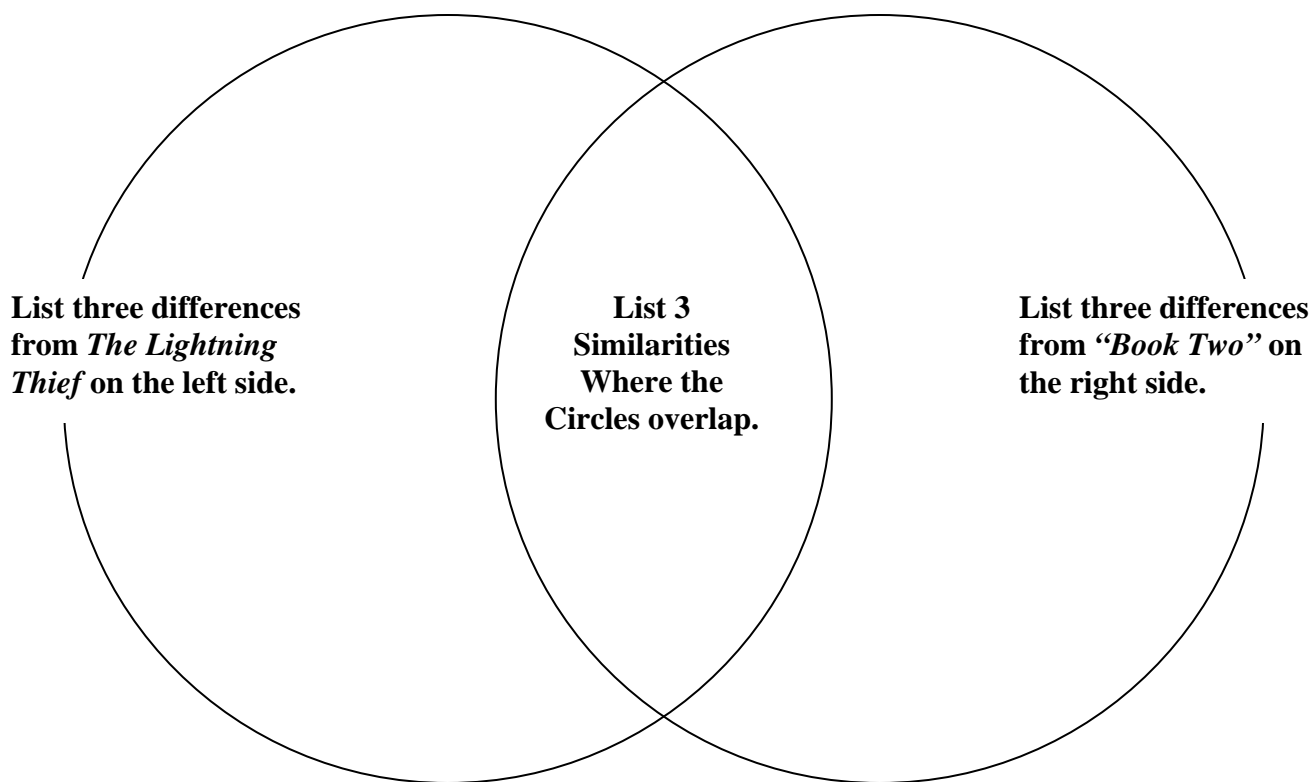
Read some of these books this summer! A complete annotated list of Lone Star books is available at: <http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/lonestarlists.html>. A list of Newberry Award winners is available at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberryhonors/newberymedal.cfm>.

- Berryhill, Shane. *Chance Fortune and the Outlaws*. Starscape, 2006.
- Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound*. Feiwel and Friends, 2008.
- Brande, Robin. *Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature*. Knopf, 2007.
- Bryant, Jen. *Pieces of Georgia: A Novel*. Knopf, 2006.
- Colfer, Eoin. *Airman*. Hyperion, 2008.
- Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic, 2008.
- Connor, Leslie. *Waiting for Normal*. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, 2008.
- Deuker, Carl. *Gym Candy*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.
- Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*. David Fickling Books/Random House, 2008.
- Flinn, Alex. *Beastly*. HarperTeen, 2007.
- Freitas, Donna. *The Possibilities of Sainthood*. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008.
- Frost, Helen. *Diamond Willow*. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008.
- Gardner, Sally. *The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution*. Dial, 2008.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found (The Missing, Book One)*. Simon & Schuster, 2008.
- Hale, Marian. *Dark Water Rising*. Holt, 2006.
- Halls, Kelly Milner. *Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist*. Darby Creek, 2006.
- Harper, Suzanne. *The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney*. Greenwillow, 2007.
- Haydon, Elizabeth. *The Floating Island: The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme*. Starscape, 2006.
- Herlong, M.H. *The Great Wide Sea*. Viking, 2008.
- Higgins, F.E. *The Black Book of Secrets*. Feiwel and Friends, 2007.
- Holm, Jennifer L. *Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff*. Atheneum, 2007.
- Korman, Gordon. *Schooled*. Hyperion, 2007.
- Kostick, Conor. *Epic*. Viking, 2007.
- Lurie, April. *Brothers, Boyfriends, & Other Criminal Minds*. Delacorte, 2007.
- McNish, Cliff. *Breathe: A Ghost Story*. Carolrhoda, 2006.
- Pearson, Mary E. *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*. Henry Holt, 2008.
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *the dead and the gone*. Harcourt, 2008.
- Resau, Laura. *What the Moon Saw: A Novel*. Delacorte, 2006.
- Salisbury, Graham. *Night of the Howling Dogs*. Wendy Lamb, 2007.
- Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. Clarion, 2007.
- Scott, Michael. *Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*. Delacorte, 2007.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Antsy Does Time*. Dutton, 2008.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. Simon & Schuster, 2007.
- Smith, Roland. *I, Q.: Independence Hall*. Sleeping Bear, 2008.
- Smith, Roland. *Peak*. Harcourt, 2007.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Zen and the Art of Faking It*. Scholastic, 2007.
- Stead, Rebecca. *First Light*. Wendy Lamb, 2007.
- Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. Little, Brown, 2007.
- Ziegler, Jennifer. *How Not to be Popular*. Delacorte, 2008.

Sample Venn Diagram – Reading Assignment One

Using this sheet as an example, on a **separate** sheet of paper create a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast *The Lightning Thief* and the book you read from the approved “free choice” list (“Book Two”). **Where the circles overlap**, list at least **three similarities** between *The Lightning Thief* and “Book Two.” **On the left side**, list at least **three differences** from *The Lightning Thief*; **on the right side**, list at least **three differences** from “Book Two.” **On the bottom**, write a two or three sentence **conclusion** – an idea you had after looking at these similarities and differences. For example, you might reach a conclusion about how setting influences plot or how authors use characters to tell a story.

If you would like to do so, decorate your diagram with pictures that relate to the book.



CONCLUSION (What did you learn about books or these stories?)
