



LMS 7th Grade Literacy Summer Reading/Writing Project



For this year's project, students are required to read and respond to 2 books. This work will be due the first full week of school.



Book 1: Choice Book

This book should be a book you have not read before that is appropriate for your reading level. In other words, a 'just right' book. You can find some great suggestions on the following websites:

Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network
<http://www.haisln.org/recommendedreadinglists.html>

2008-2009 Lone Star Book List
<http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/Assets/Files/lonestar/lone0910a.pdf>

These lists are also available in .pdf format on the Lanier Middle School website
<http://ms.houstonisd.org/LanierMS/>.

While reading this book, you will need to complete 2 of the following Reading Responses. The responses should be in complete sentences, approximately one page, handwritten (or typed, double spaced).

- ★ Before or at the beginning of the book, write about any predictions you have about the book and/or characters in the book.
- ★ Before or at the beginning of the book, write about why you decided to choose this book.
- ★ While reading, write about a part of the book you didn't understand or that didn't make sense to you.
- ★ While reading, write about connections you have made while reading (text to self, text to world, text to text).
- ★ While or after reading, write about your favorite (or least favorite character) in the book.
- ★ After reading, write a summary of what you have read.
- ★ After reading, write a book review.
- ★ After reading, write an alternate ending for the book.



Book 2: Required Book

Three Cups of Tea, Young Readers Edition, by Greg Mortensen
(ISBN-13: 978-0142414125)

This book is widely available both online and in stores and libraries. We will also have copies of the book for students to 'borrow' over the summer to complete this work. After reading this book, you will need to write a response to one of the

questions listed below. The response should be in complete sentences, approximately one page, handwritten (or typed, double spaced).

1. Have you ever known anyone like Mortenson? Have you ever had the experience of making a difference yourself through acts of generosity, aid, or leadership?
2. Mortenson hits many bumps in the road—he's broke, his girlfriend dumps him, he is forced to build a bridge before he can build the school, he puts on weight and drives his family crazy. Discuss his repeated brushes with failure and how they influenced your opinion of Mortenson and his efforts.
3. A lot of the book is about fitting into a foreign culture. Discuss your own experiences with foreign cultures—things you have learned, mistakes you have made, misunderstandings you have endured.
4. At the heart of the book is a powerful but simple political message: we each as individuals have the power to change the world, one cup of tea at a time. Yet the book powerfully dramatizes the obstacles in the way of this philosophy: bloody wars waged by huge armies, prejudice, religious extremism, cultural barriers. What do you think of the "one cup of tea at a time" philosophy? Do you think Mortenson's vision can work for lasting and meaningful change?

We hope you enjoy your summer vacation and your summer literacy reading & writing project! We look forward to seeing you in August.

Questions can be directed to mkeatin2@houstonisd.org.

A limited number of copies of Three Cups of Tea will be available in the front office over the summer. We ask that students return the books when they are finished so that others may share in the reading experience.