

June 2018

Dear Incoming 8th Grade Students & Parents,

Congratulations on your completion of 7th grade! I look forward to being your English teacher in the Fall!

For the 2017-2018 school year, you have to read three books:

Required Reading - *I am Malala - Young Reader's Edition* by Malala Yousafzai

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Enrichment Reading - Choice of novel from the provided reading list

Please purchase a personal copy of *I Am Malala* as it will be used in the classroom throughout the year for English and Religion. Make notes while you read using the Notice & Note signposts!!!

We will review the two required novels during the school year. If you tend to read more slowly, try to begin reading early in the summer. Please be prepared to discuss any aspect of the novels. You may also keep a record of your reactions to the reading, questions that you may have, and comments that you will want to make in September.

In addition to reading three books, you will complete a writing assignment. The writing assignment is designed to show your knowledge of the 5-paragraph essay and your understanding of applying textual evidence. It will be helpful to read through the assignment before reading the book, so you know what to highlight and note. Please add your notes regarding plot on the graphic organizer included. This writing assignment will be your first grade for 8th Grade ELA. **You must submit your essay to the Google Classroom for your grade by Tuesday, September 4th @ 12am.**

**Google Classroom: 8th Grade Summer Reading
Classroom Code: 3xiep50**

I hope that you will enjoy these selections. I will be happy to answer questions over the summer at the following email address listed below. Have a wonderful summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lauren Schmitt
7th & 8th Grade ELA
lschmitt@scmoq.org

Annotations

Please make at least two annotations per chapter in the book that you purchase over the summer. These are due the day we return to school (Tuesday, September 5, 2018). You can choose to write them directly in your novel, on post-it notes, or in a notebook.

Signposts Notice & Note to look for while reading:

Contrasts & Contradictions: When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements. Text clue: Author shows feelings or actions the reader hasn't seen before & doesn't expect. Ask yourself: Why is the character doing that?

Aha! Moment: When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something. Text clue: Characters say "I realized..." or "I suddenly knew..." or "Now I know why..." Ask yourself: How might this change things?

Tough Questions: When a character asks herself a very difficult question. Text clue: Character asks self or another a hard question. Ask yourself: What does this question make me wonder about?

Words of the Wiser: When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the protagonist aside and offers serious advice. Text clue: A wiser, often older, character offers a life lesson, usually in a quiet moment. Ask yourself: What is the life lesson and how might it affect the character?

Again & Again: When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over. Text clue: A repeated image, phrase, or reference. Ask yourself: Why does this keep happening again and again?

Memory Moment: When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory. Text clue: "I suddenly remembered..." or "I remember..." or "Thinking back..." Ask yourself: Why might this memory be important?

Adapted from Notice & (Beers & Probst 2013)

Tuesdays with Morrie Aphorism Analysis

Due: Tuesday, September 4, 2017

Aphorism – a short phrase that expresses a true or wise idea. Aphorisms from the novel can be found on the next page.

Reflection Questions for Aphorism Analysis

1. What important idea or theme does this literary work convey?
2. What do characters *do* that helps illustrate this idea?
3. What do characters *say* that helps to illustrate this idea?
4. What *events* take place in the work that help to illustrate this idea?
5. Are there any recurrent images or clusters of images? Do these images support the idea or theme that you find in the work?

Writing Your Essay

First, pick three aphorisms from *Tuesdays with Morrie* to write your analysis. Next, you need to form your thesis statement. After deciding on a thesis, you need to form a rough outline using the provided example. You will need to provide at least three examples from the book to illustrate the aphorisms, which will be the components of your three body paragraphs. You will need two quotes per body paragraph, so 6 quotes all together. Do not rely on the quotes to explain themselves. You need to lead into the quote, and also comment on the quote after you quote it. You need to effectively show how the quote helps to prove your point.

Outline

- Introduction Paragraph
 - Use a "hook" to grab the reader's attention
 - Use one or two sentences to express a summary of the book
 - State the aphorisms you have chosen from the book (thesis)
 - Describe in general, how the author expresses the aphorisms, i.e. by using characterization, symbolism, setting or conflicts, etc. (this will be where you lead in to your body paragraphs)
- Body–Write **three** paragraphs to explain how the author teaches the aphorisms in his book. Each paragraph will focus on a different aphorism.
- Conclusion Paragraph
 - Restate your theme
 - What did you think of the aphorisms? How have your 3 chosen aphorisms affected you?

Life Lessons From Tuesdays With Morrie (Doubleday, 1997)

1. "Accept what you are able to do and what you are not able to do." (p. 18)
2. "Accept the past as past, without denying it or discarding it." (p. 18)
3. "Learn to forgive yourself and to forgive others." (p. 18)
4. "Don't assume that it is too late to get involved." (p. 18)
5. Find someone to share your heart, give to your community, be at peace with yourself, try to be as human as you can be. (p. 34)
6. "Love always wins." (p. 40)
7. "The culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. And you have to be strong enough to say if the culture doesn't work, don't buy it." (p. 42)
8. "So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning." (p. 43)
9. ". . . if you really want it, then you'll make your dream happen." (p. 47)
10. "The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in." (p. 52)
11. "Love is the only rational act." (p. 52)
12. "I don't allow myself any more self-pity than that. A little each morning, a few tears, and that's all It's horrible to watch my body slowly wilt away to nothing. But it's also wonderful because of all the time I get to say goodbye." (p. 57)
13. "Sometimes you can't believe what you see; you have to believe what you feel." (p. 61)
14. "What if today were my last day on earth?" (p. 64)
15. "Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live." (p. 82)
16. If you accept you are going to die at any time, then you might not be as ambitious as you are. (p. 83)
17. There is no foundation, no secure ground, upon which people may stand today if it isn't the family. (p. 91)
18. "Don't cling to things, because everything is impermanent." (p. 103)
19. ". . . If you've found meaning in your life you don't want to go back. You want to go forward. You want to see more, do more. You can't wait until sixty-five." (p. 118)
20. "Money is not a substitute for tenderness, and power is not a substitute for tenderness." (p. 125)
21. ". . . love is how you stay alive, even after you are gone." (p. 133)
22. "Love each other or perish." (p. 149)
23. ". . . the big things—how we think, what we value—those you must choose yourself. You can't let anyone--or any society—determine those for you." (p. 155)
24. "Don't let go too soon, but don't hang on too long." (p. 162)
25. "Be compassionate. And take responsibility for each other. If we only learned those lessons, this world would be so much better a place." (p. 163)
26. "Forgive yourself before you die. Then forgive others." (p. 164)
27. "As long as we can love each other, and remember the feeling of love we had, we can die without ever really going away. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on—in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here." (p. 174)
28. "Death ends a life, not a relationship." (p. 174)
29. The important questions have to do with love, responsibility, spirituality, awareness. (p. 175)

30. "You're not a wave, you are part of the ocean." (p. 180)

31. ". . . there is no such thing as 'too late' in life." (p. 190)

Tuesdays with Morrie Plot Chart

Directions: Summarize each chapter in the novel by listing (in bullet points) the important events in the boxes below.

The First Tuesday	
The Second Tuesday	
The Third Tuesday	
The Fourth Tuesday	
The Fifth Tuesday	
The Sixth Tuesday	
The Seventh Tuesday	

The Eighth Tuesday	
The Ninth Tuesday	
The Tenth Tuesday	
The Eleventh Tuesday	
The Twelfth Tuesday	
The Thirteenth Tuesday	
The Fourteenth Tuesday	
Graduation	

Summer Reading Essay Rubric

CATEGORY	ADVANCED - 15	PROFICIENT - 12.5	BASIC - 10	MINIMAL - 7.5
Ideas	The paragraphs provide interpretations and draw conclusions that reflect clear and logical links between the details and the topic.	The paragraphs provide interpretations that are mostly valid and say something important about the topic.	Focus on basic ideas without much explanation.	The paragraphs are mostly comprised of ideas that suggest a lack of understanding of the topic.
Evidence	The body paragraphs includes 2 or more direct quotations from the text to support the topic.	The body paragraphs includes 2 direct quotations from the text, but lacks a clear explanation or connection.	The body paragraphs includes 1 direct quotation from the text to support the topic.	The body paragraphs do not direct quotations from the text to support the topic.
Organization	Each paragraph's topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence flow well together. Sentences are in a logical order throughout the paragraphs. Transitions enhance the paper.	Each paragraph's topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence are in order. Sentences are placed in a logical order, but the writing is choppy in places. Transitions are simple but used accurately.	Each paragraph includes a topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence, but order is awkward. Each paragraph is structured in sentences, but ideas are hard to follow. Transitions used sparingly or incorrectly.	The paragraphs are missing one or more key requirements (topic sentence; supporting details; concluding sentence) There is little sense that the writing is organized. Transitions absent or consistently inappropriate.
Grammar and Mechanics	Correct grammar and mechanics used with few to no mistakes; correct usage enhances writing	A few mistakes, but they do not affect understanding; mistakes mostly with complex structures	Mistakes are evident that affect the understanding; simple structures are mostly correct	Many mistakes throughout make it difficult to understand; mistakes with simple structures affect meaning.

Summer Reading List --- Suggested Titles Grades 6th - 8th

FICTION

Anderson, Laurie Halse.....Fever 1793
Avi Crispin: the Cross of Lead
Barry, Dave..... Peter and the Shadow Thieves (series)
Bloor, Edward..... Story Time; Tangerine
Bowen, Fred..... Quarterback Season
Burks, Brian..... Soldier Boy
Card, Orson Scott.....Ender's Game
Carroll, Michael..... Stronger: A Super Human Clash
Choldenko, Gennifer.... Al Capone Shines my Shoes
Clayton, Emma The Roar
Clement-Davies, D. . The Telling Pool
Colfer, Eoin..... Artemis Fowl (series)
Corder, Zizou..... Lion Boy (trilogy)
Creech, Sharon.....Absolutely Normal Chaos; Walk Two Moons; Bloomability
Crossley-Holland The Seeing Stone (trilogy)
Curtis, Christopher Paul.....Mighty Miss Malone
Deuker, Carl..... Payback Time
Dicamillo, Kate..... The Tiger Rising
Dowd, Siobhan.....London Eye Mystery
Doyle, Arthur C. The Hound of the Baskervilles
Draper, Sharon.....Out of My Mind
Flanagan, John Ranger's Apprentice (series)
Foon, Dennis..... The Dirt-Eaters
Ford, Michael..... Birth of a Warrior (series)
Gaiman, NeilOdd and the Frost Giants
Gantos, JackDead End In Norvelt
Gordon, Roderick....Tunnels (series)
Grant, MichaelGone (series)
Green, TimRivals
Haddix, MargaretDouble Identity
Hahn, MaryThe Ghost of Crutchfield Hall
Hautman, PeteMr. Was
Hill, WillDepartment 19 (series)
Hite, SidThe King of Slippery Falls
Holman, FeliceSlake's Limbo 121 Days
Jacques, BrianRedwall (series)
Jinks, Catherine.....The Genius Wars
Korman, GordonMasterminds; Schooled
Larson, Kirby.....Hattie Big Sky
Lubar, DavidWizards of the Game
Lupica, MikeFantasy League
MacDonald, Bailey ..Wicked Will
Manes, StephenAn Almost Perfect Game
McCaughrean, G.Cyrano
McKay, HilaryIndigo's Star

Mikaelson, BenJungle of Bones
 Miller, AshleyColin Fischer
 Myklusch, Matt..... The Accidental Hero
 Paterson, Katherine.....Bridge to Terabithia
 Patterson, James..... Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life
 Paulsen, Gary..... Family Ties
 Pearsall, Shelley..... All Shook Up
 Peck, Richard..... A Long Way from Chicago; Horse Thief
 Perkovich, O.R..... 8th Grade Superzero
 Petersen, P.J..... Wild River
 Philbrick, W.R. The Young Man and the Sea
 Pratchett, Terry Dodger
 Preller, James..... Bystander
 Raskin, Ellen.....The Westing Game
 Riordan, Rick..... Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)
 Rook, Sebastian London, 1850 (series)
 Roy, Jennifer..... Mindblind
 Rupp, Rebecca After Eli
 Ryan, Pam Munoz.....Esperanza Rising; Becoming Naomi Leon
 Salisbury, Graham ... Hunt for the Bamboo Rat
 Schlitz, Laura Amy.....A Drowned Maiden's Hair
 Schmatz, Pat Bluefish
 Schmidt, Gary Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Darkness , Trouble
 Shusterman, Neal.... Antsy Does Time
 Sloan, Holly Goldberg.....Counting by 7s
 Smith, Roland Independence Hall (series); Beneath
 Spinelli, Jerry..... Hokey Pokey
 Stead, Rebecca..... Liar & Spy, When You Reach Me
 Tashjian, Janet.....My Life as a Stuntboy
 Thomson, John.....A Small Boat at the Bottom of the Sea
 Walden, Mark..... H.I.V.E (series)
 Wallace, Rich.....Dunk Under Pressure
 Wells, RosemaryRed Moon at Sharpsburg
 Wild, KateFirefight
 Wooding, Chris.....Silver
 Woodson, Jacqueline.....Hush
 Yancey, Richard.....The Extraordinary Adventures of of Alfred Kropp
 Yee, LisaWarp Speed

NON-FICTION

Allen, Thomas..... George Washington: Spymaster
 Athans, Sandra..... Tales from the Top of The World: Climbing Mount Everest with Pete Athans
 Bauer, Nona Dog Heroes of Sept. 11th: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs
 Bell, Lonnie The Story of Coca Cola
 Beyer, Rick The Greatest Stories Never Told
 Blackwood, Gary Mysterious Messages: A History of Codes and Ciphers
 Bruchac, Joseph Jim Thorpe: Original All-American

Bryson, Bill..... A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail
Carson, Ben..... Gifted Hands
Cooper, Margaret..... Exploring the Ice Age
Cork, John..... The James Bond Encyclopedia
Crompton, Samuel ... Julius Caesar
Crossingham, John... Learn to Speak Music
Crutcher, Chris..... King of the Mild Frontier
Deem, James..... Faces From the Past: Forgotten People of North America
DeVorkin, David..... Hubble: Imaging Space and Time
Diakite, Baba A Gift From Childhood: Memories of an African Boyhood
Fradin, Dennis..... With a Little Luck: Surprising Stories of Amazing Discoveries
Freedman, Russell.... Freedom Walkers: the Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
Freedman, Russell....Who Was First?: Discovering the Americas
Fremon, DavidThe Holocaust Heroes
Gay, Peter.....Mozart
Greenhill, Wendy.....Shakespeare: Man of the Theater
Hawking, StephenThe Universe in a Nutshell
Hillenbrand, Laura ...Seabiscuit
Hoose, Phillip.....Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95
Hopkinson, D.Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America
Houston, JeanneFarewell to Manzanar
Keeley, JenniferLife in the Hitler Youth
Kusky, TimothyClimate Change: Shifting Glaciers, Deserts, and Climate Belts
Lalicki, Tom.....Spellbinder: the Life of Harry Houdini
Lassieur, AllisonEarthquakes
Lieberman, NoahGlove Affairs: the Romance, History and Tradition of the Baseball Glove
Macaulay, DavidThe Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body
MacKay, JoeThe Great Shutout Pitchers: 20 Profiles of a Vanishing Breed
Malone, John.....Unsolved Mysteries of Science
Mann, Charles.....Before Columbus: the Americas of 1491
Marquez, HeronRoberto Clemente: Baseball's Humanitarian Hero
Marrin, AlbertA Volcano Beneath the Snow
Marx, Jeffrey.....Season of Life
McCarty, Nick.....Rome
McKissack, PatBlack Diamond: the Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues
Meltzer, MiltonTen Kings and the World's they Ruled
Morgan, Sally.....Alternative Energy Sources
Murphy, Jim..... Truce: the Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting
Myers, Walter D. The Greatest: Muhammad Ali
Nardo, Don Life of a Roman Gladiator
Owen, David Police Lab
Patrick, Bethanne.... An Uncommon History Of Common Things
Pfetzer, Mark Within Reach: My Everest Story
Pimm, Nancy Roe.... The Daytona 500: The Thrill and Thunder of The Great American Race
Pohlen, Jerome..... Albert Einstein and Relativity for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities and Thought Experiments
Randall, Bernard Alexander the Great: Macedonian King and Conqueror

Rappaport, Doreen... Beyond Courage: the Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust
Richard, Carl J. Greeks & Romans Bearing Gifts: How the Ancients Inspired the Founding
Sandler, Martin The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure
Sayers, Gale I Am Third: the Inspiration for Brian's Song
Schuman, Michael Elie Wiesel: Voice from the Holocaust
Schwartz, Joseph.....Einstein for Beginners
Stewart, GailThe Trojan War
St. John, Warren.....Outcasts United: the Story of A Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town
Taylor, Theodore... Air Raid Pearl Harbor!: the Story of December 7, 1941
Tebow, Tim.....Through My Eyes
VanHecke, Susan... Raggin', Jazzin', Rockin':A History of Musical Instrument Makers
Walker, Sally.....Secrets of a Civil War Submarine
Walker, Sally.....Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland
Wasdin, HowardI Am a SEAL Team 6 Warrior: Memoirs of an American Soldier
Winston, RobertWhat Goes On In My Head?
Woodward, JohnHow to Be a Genius
Zullo, AllanSurviving Sharks and other Dangerous Creatures