

Dear Class of 2024,

I have heard many great things about this class! Next year, you will study the Middle Ages, literature, poetry, the writing process, and world geography. You will also explore world cultures as they emerged in medieval times and continue to develop today. It's going to be a fantastic year of exploration and learning! Your summer reading assignment is to read:



Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys is historical fiction based on true experiences in Lithuania in 1941. We often only hear about what was going on in Germany at this time or in other parts of the world affected by WWII. So this novel is a different voice that helps us to further understand what people live through during times of war. Before you start reading, watch this short video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPIQ_LuKtDE) where the author explains the historical context, her research, and her writing process. You are receiving this book today. Take care of it because if you lose it, you will need to replace it.

Please read the novel and complete the following activities. Your completed assignment is due on the first day of school. This is your first graded assignment of 7th grade so please do not leave it to the last minute.

Plan out how much you need to read each day or each week to complete your novel and writing in time. Jot down brief notes immediately after completing each chapter. Your notes can be 2-3 bullet points or sentences per chapter. Follow the attached directions and rubric.

Be thoughtful and detailed in your reflection and your letter to Katrina.

You must also find an independent reading book before school resumes. Bring these books with you on the first day of school as you will be using them from day one, for comprehension, discussion, and writing activities.

Have a great summer and may you find many moments to play, relax, and enjoy!

*All my best,
Araceli*

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

**Writing must be typed: 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double spaced

1. **Take reading Notes for *Between Shades of Gray***; Create a google doc to record your notes at the end of every 8-10 **chapters (they are short)**. **Jot down brief notes (3-4 bullet points or sentences)**. Note clues about the characters, important events, conflicts, impactful moments or any questions you might have about the plot.
2. **Reflect on *Between Shades of Gray***: Think about what *Between Shades of Gray* was about and how it affected you. What was the main problem/conflict in the story? What were your favorite moments in the book? What character stood out to you? Compare this book to other books you may have read about the same time period (WWII) or similar theme (war/survival). *Your reflection must be two or more paragraphs in length and 5-7 sentences per paragraph.*
3. **Write a letter addressed to Katrina** in which you tell her about one of your all-time favorite books. Identify the title and author. What happens in this story? Who are the characters? What is the setting? Give her the juicy details and don't be afraid to spoil it. Why do you like it so much? Give her three reasons why she should read it too! (Minimum half a page to one page response)
4. **Select your first Independent Reading Book to be brought to school on the first day**: If there is a particular book that you are eager to read, find it at the library or your local bookstore. Bring it with you from day one, as you will begin each day with independent reading. Keep in mind it must be a novel and it should fall in one of the following genres: fantasy, biography, dystopian, mystery, or science fiction.

Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

<i>Between Shades of Gray</i> chapter notes	25
Reflection - <i>Between Shades of Gray</i>	30
Independent Reading Book brought to school on the first day	20
Letter Addressed to Katrina	25
Total Points	100