

Dear Westland Eighth Grader,

Your ability to read and understand text in its many forms is crucial to success in your academic, civic and personal pursuits. Therefore, all Westland students are required to complete a summer reading program. These assignments are designed to strengthen your reading skills and enhance your performance at school in the coming academic year.

The Particulars

- Work counts toward your first marking period grade.
- The notes are **due** to your English teacher on **September 2nd**.
- For all assignments, include the book title, copyright date, and author.
- You will read and complete assignments for **three (3)** books: one fiction, one non-fiction, and one MYP book.

Choosing Books

- Please do not select a book you have already read.
- Select titles that are on or above your reading level. Lexile levels are provided on suggested titles.
- Read the directions carefully and complete all assignments.
- Ask librarians, teachers, and parents for additional suggestions.
- We advise parents to review with their children several books for interest and readability before making selections.

Late Enrollment

- Students who enroll after the start of the semester will have three weeks to submit the assignments.
- Students who are enrolled but come after September 2nd should submit the work to the teacher the following day.

Fiction Assignment

1. Choose and read one work of fiction of your choice. Below are some titles that students your age have enjoyed. If nothing on this list interests you, visit your local library for other titles and choices. (Lexile levels are in parentheses. See note at the bottom of the MYP page.)

- *The Golden Compass* Philip Pullman (930) Lyra Belacqua is a precocious orphan growing up within the precincts of Oxford University. But in Lyra's world, people each have a personal *daemon*, the manifestation of their souls in animal form. In her world science, theology, and magic are closely allied.
- *Jurassic Park* Michael Crichton (710). Bioengineers clone 15 species of dinosaurs and establish an island preserve where tourists can view the large reptiles; chaos ensues when a rival genetics firm attempts to steal frozen dinosaur embryos.
- *The Bronx Masquerade* Nikki Grimes (670). When a high school teacher in the Bronx begins to host open-mike poetry in his classroom on Fridays, his students find a forum to express their identity issues and forge unexpected connections with one another.
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kid (840). Lily Owens' life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in-mother", Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free from jail. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina, a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.
- *My Sister's Keeper: A Novel* Jodi Picoult (840) .Kate Fitzgerald has a rare form of leukemia. Her sister, Anna, was conceived to provide a donor match for procedures that become increasingly invasive. This is a real page-turner and frighteningly thought-provoking..

Check the Westland website for additional suggestions. You may also consider a book from the following series: American Girl, Artemis Fowl, The Bluford Series, Dear America Books, Harry Potter, and The Royal Diaries.

2. As you read your novel, record quotes or passages from the text about the main character.

Include information in the following categories:

- Description of the main character
- The main character's words and/or thoughts
- The main character's actions
- How other characters interact with the main character and/or what they say about the main character.

3. Be prepared to complete an assignment in English class based on your notes. Take very thorough notes. The more complete your notes, the better you will do on the in class writing assignment.

Non-fiction Assignment

(Choose either A or B)

A. Biography or Autobiography

1. Choose and read a biography or autobiography on a scientist, writer, politician, head of state, religious leader, explorer or philosopher.

2. Take Notes

- Give the full name of the person.
- Identify two character traits of the person (for example, "fair—treats people equally")
- List quotations from the book that support these traits and give the page numbers.

3. Be prepared to complete an assignment in English class based on your notes.

-OR-

B. Other Non-fiction Book

1. Choose and read a book from the list of subjects below, which includes topics you will study in world studies and science classes in the coming year.

World Studies

Citizenship
American Revolution
Slavery
Civil War

Science

Earthquakes
Volcanoes
Chemistry
Weather

2. Take Notes

- Briefly summarize or explain the topic of the book.
- In complete sentences, **list five facts or ideas** you learned.
- **List five technical or special words** unique to this book that you found new or interesting.

3. Be prepared to complete an assignment in English class based on your notes.

MYP Assignment

1. Read *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World, One Child At A Time* By Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin, adapted by Sarah Thomson. The major themes in the book, relating to awareness of environment and issues of responsibility, align with components of the Middle Years Programme and the MCPS English curriculum. The themes will be emphasized at the beginning of the school year in classroom activities, school-wide activities, and the MYP kick-off event.
2. Review the Learner Profile attributes on the back of this brochure. What Learner Profile attributes were most valuable to Greg on his journeys throughout the book. **Label the Learner Profile attributes from 1 (most essential) to 10 (least essential).**
3. On a separate sheet of paper, **list examples from the text** that support your top 5 choices.
4. Be prepared to complete in class activities based on the book and your choices.

* The lexile measure (L) of a book indicates how difficult it is to comprehend the text. Difficulty is measured by word frequency and sentence length. It can help you decide if a book might be too difficult, too easy, or just right. But the lexile is just a starting point: Remember that your relationship with a book is greatly affected by your age and personal interests, what the book is about, and even how the book is designed. Your MAP-R test scores include a lexile measure of your reading level. General lexile levels for 7th grade readers are between 735 and 1065.

<i>Greg's Survival Choices....</i>		
IB Learner Profile Attributes	Attribute Descriptors Order the attributes from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important)	
Inquirers	IB Learners question the world around them and actively enjoy learning.	
Knowledgeable	IB Learners explore concepts, ideas and issues which have global importance.	
Thinkers	IB Learners take initiative and apply critical thinking skills and creativity to solving problems.	
Communicators	IB Learners express ideas and information confidently and creatively	
Principled	IB Learners are honest and have a sense of fairness and justice in their interactions with others.	
Open-minded	IB Learners are open to different perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and cultures.	
Caring	IB Learners show compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others.	
Risk-Taker	IB Learners exhibit independence to explore new ideas. They are courageous in defending their beliefs.	
Balanced	IB Learners appreciate the importance of nurturing both the mind and body.	
Reflective	IB Learners think about their own learning and recognize strengths and weaknesses within themselves.	



Westland Middle School Summer Reading 2009 8th Grade



Westland Middle School
A Montgomery County Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School

