

Over the summer I would like you to read **at least one** “**historical fiction**” book that relates to our social studies curriculum. This book **must** focus on the history we will be studying next year, which means U.S. history from the American Revolution to the second American industrial revolution of the late 1800s. Why did Free Soilers hate the Kansas Nebraska Act in 1854? How were slaves sold at auction in 1800s America? Find out. Get a book and read. Here are some books that fit this category. You are always also encouraged to choose your own book.

- ***The Fifth of March***: Ann Rinaldi- Boston Massacre
- ***The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing***: M. T. Anderson- Revolutionary War
- ***My Brother Sam Is Dead***: James Lincoln Collier- Revolutionary War
- ***Day of Tears***: Julius Lester- Slavery
- ***47***: Walter Mosley- Slavery
- ***Copper Sun***: Sharon M. Draper- Slavery
- ***Girl in Blue***: Ann Rinaldi- Civil War (*Rinaldi has written many historical fiction books*)
- ***Across Five Aprils***: Irene Hunt- Civil War
- ***Red Moon at Sharpsburg***: Rosemary Wells- Civil War.

After reading your book, please complete the following activity.

The Assignment...Elements of a Story

Prepare your project by dividing a poster board (**NOT** foam board and **NOT** the tri-fold type) into **SIX** sections. You **MAY** use a computer/printer for a neater presentation. Poster board may be **ANY** color. Don't forget to put your name on the back of your poster.

***Section #1-** Book cover information including the title, author and an attention-getting, relevant illustration of the story. Create one 1-2 sentence “blurby” positive review in your cover with source (who said those words)).

***Section#2-** Two (2) to three (3) main characters should be illustrated/collaged (what setting are they in? what are they wearing? what are they holding?). Label them (specific attributes and important items). Then write a 2-3 sentence description for each. Use lively and precise word choice.

***Section#3-** Identify FIVE (5) new or interesting words. Define each word using a dictionary definition. In addition, give a synonym and antonym for each.

***Section#4-** Create an illustration of your favorite scene—remember setting and action. Be sure to add a 2-3 sentence caption that describes what is happening in your scene. (THINK CONVENTIONS!)

***Section#5-** Write a short paragraph detailing the **central conflict** of the story. I am looking for specific detailing of the conflict and the resolution. Use good supporting details, complete sentences, and proper punctuation.

***Section#6-** What is the theme or big idea of the story? How is this message relevant today? Explain your answer in 3-5 well written sentences.

***You will be presenting your posters in class on DAY TWO so plan ahead. Your audience is anyone walking through the Junior High wing as your posters will be displayed. This project serves as your first grade of the year.

Do not read the following books for this assignment.

- Any school-assigned book over the last three years.
- *Lord of the Flies*, *Animal Farm*, *The Pearl*, *Which Way Freedom*, *Fever 1793*, *Nightjohn*, *Johnny Tremain*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Animal Farm*, *The Jungle*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Night*.