

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer social studies reading fun 2017

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 about 1880 to the present day. What was the Negro baseball league in the early 1900’s like? Who were its heroes? What was the experience of American soldiers during World War II? During the 60s what did hippies do? What was the experience of the Vietnam War like for soldiers? Get a book and read. Here are some books that fit this category. You are always also encouraged to choose your own book.

- **Dodger:** Terry Pratchett- 1880s Britain- historical fantasy.
- **How It Happened in Peach Hill:** Marthe Jocelyn - 1917 New York, WWI-era.
- **We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball:** Nelson, Kadir. Negro baseball leagues.
- **Leviathan:** Scott Westerfeld- Alternate universe- Europe WWI.
- **The Trial:** Jen Bryant- Charles Lindbergh kidnapping 1930s.
- **The Book Thief:** Markus Zusak- Nazi Germany.
- **Code Name Verity:** Elizabeth Wein- girls WWII.
- **Between Shades of Gray:** Ruta Sepetys- Soviet Union WWII.
- **Farewell to Manzanar:** Jeanne Houston- WWII Japanese internment.
- **Summer’s End:** Audrey Coulombis- Vietnam War.
- **Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam:** Cynthia Kadohata. Vietnam War.
- **Fallen Angels:** Walter Dean Myers- Vietnam War.

\*\*\*Many of these authors have written other historical fiction novels. Look at their other books too.

### 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.*