

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade language Arts

### Required Summer Reading List

Read the following three books over the summer:

To Kill A Mockingbird Harper Lee

A TALE OF TWO CITIES Charles Dickens

Silas Marner George Eliot

Complete the attached activities for each book. Return the packet to Mrs. Ratliff (Room 15). This work will be credited toward your 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade in the Language Arts for the upcoming school year!

**due: AUGUST 15, 2011**

Enjoy your time away from school but KEEP READING!!!!!! The more you read this summer the better you will do with all your studies next year. There is a direct correlation between summer reading and academic achievement.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year will be filled with Excitement, new responsibilities, accomplishments, and opportunities. Your goal will be to reach for them and, then, to move beyond them.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Summer Reading List

*Must Read: To Kill A Mockingbird Harper Lee*

❖ *Complete one of the following writing assignments*

- *Imagine that you are a reporter at the time of the story. Write an article about Tom Robinson's Trial and subsequent Death.*
- *Research the history of the South, and the changes brought by the Civil War.*
- *Write a short biography of author - Harper Lee*
- *Imagine that you are atticus finch. devise a different defense for Tom robinson; then rewrite the trial scene. Be sure to indicate if you manage to convince the jury to acquit Tom robinson.*
- *Discuss how prejudice is a major theme of the novel. Cite specific examples from the story in support of your ideas.*

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*Must Read: A TALE OF TWO CITIES*

*Charles Dickens*

- ❖ *Generate a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the lives of Charles Darnay and Sidney Carton. Please identify/explain 5 individual traits for each character as well as 5 common traits for the two.*

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*Must Read: Silas Marner*

*George Eliot*

❖ *Please identify the essential story elements*

Title/Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of view: *(Remember - who is telling the story)*

Setting: *(Remember - time and place)*

Main Characters: *(Remember - their roles in story & relationships to one another)*

Plot: *(Remember - what are the conflicts and resolutions)*

Theme: *(Remember - why did the author write this story? What ideas/trends were explored? What did you think about as you read the story?)*