**8th Grade Summer Reading Books**

Choose one of the books below to read before classes resume. You will be required to complete a literary analysis on your choice.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan                           The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han

The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau                           Michael Vey Prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans

Slated by Teri Terry                                                       Backfield Boys by John Feinstein

The Selection by Kiera Cass                                         Ghost by Jason Reynolds

**Summer Reading Literary Analysis**

You are to write a literary analysis on one of the summer reading book selections. A literary analysis is a written essay that breaks down certain elements of a piece of literature and explains their meaning and significance.

**You should include**:

1. **Introduction paragraph**:
2. Include a clincher
3. Brief summary of the story (3 to 4 sentences including the main character and setting)
4. Thesis statement (introducing at least two literary elements) example: John Doe uses foreshadowing and irony in “The Student” in order to build a suspense.
5. **Paragraphs 2 & 3**
6. For each paragraph, choose a separate literary element to analyze (ex. simile, metaphor, irony, foreshadowing, etc.)
7. Describe how the author uses this literary element to enhance the overall story. What is the author’s purpose in choosing such techniques?
8. For each paragraph, include at least TWO pieces of textual evidence (direct quotes) from the story with explanations explaining the literary element
9. Include a transition and topic sentence at the beginning of each paragraph.
10. **Conclusion**
11. Summarize the main ideas from your essay.
12. State the theme of the story
13. Include a personal reflection (one sentence) on the story. (opinion, lesson learned, etc.)

**Writing Dos**

1. Do be specific and descriptive
2. Do use proper grammar
3. Do vary your sentence structure and vocabulary
4. Do use appropriate transitions with punctuation.

**Writing DON’Ts**

1. Do not write things such as “I think” or “I believe” except in the conclusion
2. Do not use the second person (“You”).
3. Do not write “I am going to tell you about…”.
4. Do not use contractions (don’t, can’t, etc.)

**Rubric**

**Literary Analysis**

**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Element**  | **1**  | **2**  | **3**  | **4**  | **5**  | **Total**  |
| **Organization**  | Essay is missing several required elements  | The essay is missing three: grabber, thesis, topic sentences, transitions, closure   | The essay is missing two: grabber, thesis, topic sentences, transitions, closure  | The essay is organized. Includes all but one.   | The essay is organized, focused, and well developed. Includes all parts of the essay.   |    |
| **Support/Evidence/ Element #1**   | There is no evidence for the first element  | The evidence is irrelevant for the first element.   | Evidence is not fully developed for the first element.   | Evidence is included and make sense for the first element.   | Evidence is clear, fully developed, and sophisticated for the first element.   |    |
| **Explanation** **Element #1**  | There is no explanation for the first element   | The explanation is weak for the first element.   | Explanations are included, but they are not fully developed.  | Explanations are included and make sense.   | Explanations are clear, fully developed, and sophisticated first element  |     |
| **Support/Evidence/** **Element #2**  | There is no evidence for the second element for the second element  | The evidence is irrelevant for the second element for the second element.   | Evidence is not fully developed for the second element.  | Evidence is included and make sense for the second element.   | Evidence is clear, fully developed, and sophisticated for second element  |     |
| **Explanation** **Element #2**  | There is no support or explanation for the second element  | The explanation is weak for the second element  | Explanations are included, but they are not fully developed for 2nd element.  | Explanations are included and make sense for the 2nd element.   | Explanations are clear, fully developed, and sophisticated for 2nd element  |   |
| **Conventions**  | There are several grammatical errors  | There are many grammatical errors.  | There are some grammatical errors.   | There are few grammatical errors.   | There are no grammatical errors.   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  **TOTAL**  |   |   |   |   |   |    |

**NOTES:**