8th Grade Accelerated ELA Summer Reading Assignments

Students must read TWO books in order to complete this assignment.

• Copper Sun, by Sharon Draper OR TBD (Alternative Option)

• One book chosen by the student

Goals:

* To reduce the dreaded “summer slump” that causes students to lose acquired skills
* To bolster independent reading abilities
* To aid in reinforcing comprehension

Assignment Instructions:

**Component I**: Character Tracking (Due Friday, August 7th)

Weight: Classwork assignment

*For BOTH Copper Sun and the student selection reads, follow the instructions below:*

* What makes a book’s protagonist, or hero, likeable? What makes the antagonist, or “bad guy,” unlikeable? Write down the names of four or more characters from your book and list their traits. (Keep in mind that characters, just like real people, are more than just “good” or “bad”. Protagonists can be jealous, vengeful or angry just as Antagonists have the ability to be kind, forgiving and thoughtful).

**Component II**: Two Student-Selected Assignments (Due Monday. August 10th)

Weight: Minor Assessment (Homework grade)

*Students will need to pick* ***TWO DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENTS*** *from the prompts below. One will be a reflection of Copper Sun, while the other will reflect their second, independently selected book.*

1. Pretend you’re going to join the characters in your book for a week. Make a list of all the things you’ll need to pack. Plan carefully, because you won’t be able to go home for anything you forgot!
2. Write a letter to the author of a book you recently read.

* Mention this book, plus any others that you have read by this author.
* Tell the author three things about the book you just read (something you did or didn’t like; your opinions about the characters, setting, and plot; why you did or didn’t like the way the story ended; an idea for a sequel; etc.)
* Ask the author 2-3 questions. These can either be personal questions (favorite childhood memory, number of brothers or sisters, favorite book, favorite place to visit) or they can be about the process of writing this book.

1. Create a timeline to show the main events of the story. Use drawings, clipart, or magazine cutouts to illustrate events along the timeline. Then draw a map showing the location(s) where the story took place.
2. Imagine that you’ve been invited to a birthday party for one of the book’s characters, and you want to bring the perfect gift! Consider the character’s personality, likes, and dislikes before deciding on a gift he or she would really love and use. Create a greeting card to go along with your gift. In the greeting, explain to your friend from the book why you chose this gift.
3. In a good novel, the main character must make some hard choices. Think about a book you read recently. Write 5-10 questions that will give this character a chance to talk about the choices they faced. Then, answer the questions as if you were the character. As you write your answers, talk about the events, thoughts, and feelings that surrounded your choices and discuss the impact of your decision(s).