

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

The Testing

Slated

The Selection

The Summer I Turned Pretty

Michael Vey Prisoner of Cell 25

Backfield Boys

8th Grade Teachers

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:

A. Introduction paragraph:

- a. Include a clincher
- b. Brief summary of the story (3 to 4 sentences including the main character and setting)
- c. Thesis statement (introducing at least two literary elements) example: John Doe uses foreshadow and irony in "The Student", in order to keep the reader build a suspense.

B. Paragraphs 2 & 3

- a. For each paragraph, choose a separate literary element to analyze (simile, metaphor, irony, etc.)
- b. Describe how the author uses this literary element to enhance the overall story. What is the author's purpose in choosing such techniques?
- c. For each paragraph, include at least two pieces of textual evidence (direct quotes) from the story with explanations explaining the literary element
- d. Include a transition and topic sentence at the beginning of each paragraph.

C. Conclusion

- a. Summarize the main ideas from your essay.
- b. State the theme of the story
- c. Include a personal reflection (one sentence) on the story. (opinion, lesson learned, etc.)

Writing Dos

- a. Do be specific and descriptive
- b. Do use proper grammar
- c. Do vary your sentence structure and vocabulary
- d. Do use appropriate transitions with punctuations

Writing DON'Ts

- a. Don't write things such as "I think" or "I believe" except in the conclusion
- b. Don't use the second person ("You").
- c. Don't write "I am going to tell you about...".
- d. Don't use contractions (don't, can't, etc.)

Rubric

Literary Analysis

Student Name: _____

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 for 2 nd element	
Support/Evidence/ Element #2	There is no evidence for the first element for the second element	The evidence is irrelevant for the first 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 the second element	
Explanation Element #2	There is no support or explanation for the second 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 for 2 nd 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: