Summer Reading for Grade 8 TGS 2013

**Required reading is due on the second day of school for your first major project grade. You must read:**

**\*The Last Book In The Universe** by Rodman Philbrick

 After reading this wonderful novel, you will accomplish three tasks:

 1. Make a glossary of illustrated terms used throughout the story. Include the term

     (such as “gummy”, “Pipe”), its meaning and relevance to the story, and a picture or

     icon which illustrates it. You should have at least 24 terms, illustrations and

   definitions. Be certain that earthlings can understand your glossary.

 2. Spaz’s journey. Create the journey map of Spaz’s missions. Name, label,

     and explain each location he travels to on his adventure. After creating the map, use a

     legend ( color- coded or numbered on the map) . Below the map, write your

     explanation of each location and the importance to the journey.

 3. Ryter tells Spaz, “You’re the last book in the universe.” From Spaz’s point of view,

     write his book of change, risks, importance of past knowledge to prepare the future.

     This is a one to two- page written summary of his adventure. Include prejudice,

     misjudgments, dilemmas, risks, adaptations he must face to reach his goals. Include

     your thoughts about the power of the printed word in civilizations to come.

  Select **two** other readings from the following list below:

**1.The Old Man and the Sea** - Ernest Hemingway.

 **2. Helen Keller The Story of My Life**- Helen Keller (Signet Classics)

 **3. Hiroshima-**John Hersey

 **4.Across Five Aprils-**Irene Hunt

 **5.The Adventures of Tom Sawyer-**Mark Twain (be aware there are some racial references, and satiric humor of life in America along the Mississippi). You may choose the Signet Classics version for a more student-friendly version.

**Take notes and record events in your journal**. In **each of the two books** (from numbers 1-5) you have selected from this group, record these paragraph responses :

1. **What period of American** **History**is represented in this historical novel?

**2. What** technology, inventions, and changes in society are explained in this novel? 3.**How**does the main character react to the chain of events in this time period?

4.**If you were with these characters**, what might be your thoughts, actions, and reactions to the themes you experience? (prejudice, war, social changes, policies, loyalties, benefactors, opportunities, obstacles you must overcome)… Write in your notes how you would feel and react to life in that time period. I will collect your notes and check for accuracy. You should have about **three to five pages of reading reaction responses to the lead questions given above** for the two books you read.

We will cover these readings in the eighth grade curriculum, so you will be required to read/respond/write on these works of literature during curriculum units in the school year. You will be given a comprehension/check test on the two you choose within the first two weeks of school. Be prepared for classroom discussion by reading and recording your summary notes as you prepare the readings during the summer. Happy Reading! See you in eighth grade! Mrs. Mailhiot