

Grade 8 Summer Reading

Welcome to Literature 8! For your summer assignment, please read one of the following novels as well as any novel of your choice from the list on the second page of this assignment. The novels you must choose from are:

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine

Full novel reading, no graphic novels.

After you have read the book, respond to the following prompt:

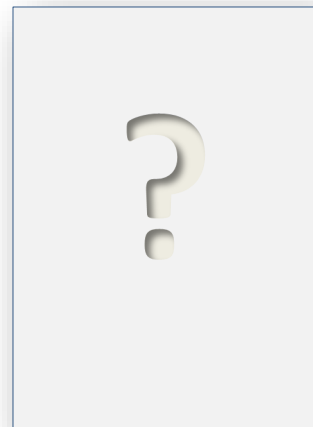
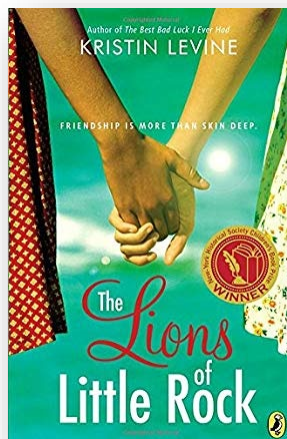
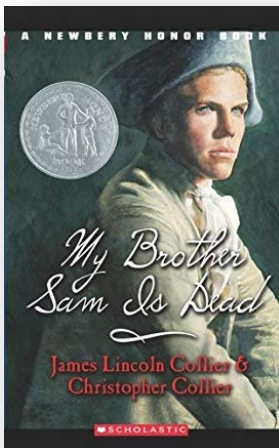
Each story is a coming-of-age story in which the protagonist must learn to understand and eventually accept many complicated aspects of life, including love, death, family, friendship, and finding his or her place in the world, in other words a Bildungsroman.

In an essay, explain how the main character, Tim or Marlee, grows as a character from the beginning to the end of the story. Discuss **three events and/or characters** that have the greatest influence on them. Describe each character, situation, or event, and explain its importance. Be sure to cite text evidence to support your ideas and cite the page number. You may also reference the 4 conditions of Bildungsroman in your analysis

Use these steps as guidelines when writing your essay:

- Write an introduction paragraph that establishes/summarizes the story, the main character, and how he or she changes.
- Write three body paragraphs, each discussing an event or character. A well written 8th grade paragraph is a minimum of 6-8 sentences.
- Write a conclusion paragraph that summarizes your thoughts about the novel and its themes.

Your essay must be typed in MLA format and printed **before** the first day of school. The essay must be turned in on the first day of school, **August 26th**, during the period in which we meet for Literature class.



Newbery Award Winning Literature

For your second book, choose one book from the list below. All books listed are either Newbery Medal Winners or Honors books. After reading this book, you are going to complete a book profile that you will use in a class assignment.

In order to write about the book, you must enjoy it and feel strongly about the book you are reading. I encourage you to go the library and check out all of these titles so that you can choose the one you feel is best for you!

Iveliz Explains It All	Andrea Beatriz	Arango
Simon Sort of Says	Erin	Bow
The War that Saved my Life	Kimberly	Brubaker Bradley
The Eyes and the Impossible	Dave	Eggers
We Dream of Space	Erin	Entrada Kelly
Hello, Universe	Erin	Entrada Kelly
The Graveyard Book	Neil	Gaiman
Dead End in Norvelt	Jack	Gantos
The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and their Holy Dog	Adam	Gidwitz
Rez Ball	Byron	Graves
The Night Diary	Veera	Hiranandani
Eagle Drums	Nasugraq Rainey	Hopson
Inside Out & Back Again	Thanhha	Lai
Red, White, and Whole	Rajani	LaRocca
A Snake Falls to Earth	Darcie	Little Badger
Freewater	Amina	Luqman-Dawson
Mexikid	Pedro	Martin
Echo	Pam	Munoz Ryan
Bomb: The Race to Build - and Steal - the World's Most Dangerous Weapon	Steve	Sheinkin
The Last Mapmaker	Christina	Soontornvat
All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team	Christina	Soontornvat
A Wish in the Dark	Christina	Soontornvat
When You Reach Me	Rebecca	Stead
One Came Home	Amy	Timberlake
Moon Over Manifest	Clare	Vanderpool
Other Words for Home	Jasmine	Warga
Genesis Begins Again	Alicia D.	Williams
Wolf Hollow	Lauren	Wolk
Mazy Chen's Last Chance	Lisa	Yee

Book profiles must be completed **before** the first day of school, **August 26th** and will be collected during the period in which we meet for Literature class. Be sure to read over the profile pages before you begin reading your book.

Name _____

Date _____

Summer Reading – Book Profile

Directions: Look over this book profile *before* you begin reading your second book. Then complete some parts of the profile *while you are reading* the book to make sure you get the important details as you are reading. Complete other parts as soon as you can after reading to ensure you remember as many details as possible. If you need more space, print a second sheet or use white lined paper to continue your answers.

Remember: you need to use this completed book profile to complete an assignment at the beginning of the school year, and this must be turned in during Literature class on the first day of school.

1. Book Basics

Title: _____

Author: _____

2. Setting – list as many details as you can in these boxes.

Time Period	Places
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Why is the setting important to this story? In other words, are there events or details of the story that wouldn't make sense, or couldn't happen if the story was set in a different time or place? Explain in 2-3 sentences.

3. Characters – list the main and supporting characters that are most important to the plot of the story. Describe them and then give your thoughts about them. Don't forget that villains are characters too!

Character Name: _____

Traits	Actions	Appearance
(adjectives to describe personality)	(what important things did they do)	(what do they look like)

My personal thoughts about this character: _____

Did the character change during this book? _____

If yes, how did they change? Explain in 2-3 sentences.

Character Name: _____

Traits	Actions	Appearance

My personal thoughts about this character: _____

Did the character change during this book? _____

If yes, how did they change? Explain in 2-3 sentences.

Character Name: _____

Traits	Actions	Appearance

My personal thoughts about this character: _____

Did the character change during this book? _____

If yes, how did they change? Explain in 2-3 sentences.

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Traits	Actions	Appearance

My personal thoughts about this character: _____

Did the character change during this book? _____

If yes, how did they change? Explain in 2-3 sentences.

4. Problem and Conflict – Describe the main problem in the story and how the character(s) solve it...or don't solve it! Then identify any conflicts or obstacles the character(s) faced.

Describe the Main Problem in the story:



What obstacles are in the way?



Obstacle 1:

Obstacle 2:

Obstacle 3:

Actual Story Solution

How I would have solved the problem

5. Personal Thoughts and Feelings – Complete this section after reading the *whole* story.

This book made me think about these things:

Would you recommend others read this book? _____

Explain: _____
