



Middle School Summer Reading
Entering Grade 8

Summer Reading and Assignments:

Both assignments are averaged together as one test grade for English. The averages are listed below.

1. **50%** A book, of your choice, based on the **Holocaust**. It can be fiction or non-fiction, but must be at least 150 pages long. You may not read *The Diary of Anne Frank* or *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

Oral Presentation: Your oral report must be 3-5 minutes. You must include the author, the title, a summary of the plot, and your personal recommendation. State whether you recommend this book, why or why not? You may use notecards!

Be prepared the third day of school to share your oral report with the class.

2. **50% Historical Fiction:** Choose **either** of these novels:

Brother's Keeper by Julie Lee

OR *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew

OR *Peace Child* by Don Richardson

OR *Walk the World's Rim* by Betty Baker

During the second week of school, students will write an "on-demand" essay (essay that is written completely in class) in response to the essay prompt provided below. Because students will have ample time to prepare for this essay, no notes will be permitted while writing the on-demand essay. Students will have an entire class period to write an introduction, at least two body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Essay Prompt:

How is your life **similar to** and how is it **different from** the life of the characters in your chosen historical fiction novel? Write an essay with an introduction, at least 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion that answers this question. Be sure to be very specific.

WCS 8th Grade English
Summer Reading Rubric

Oral Presentation: Holocaust

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Received
Basics: Time is 3-5 minutes, states author and title	5	
Content: Provides detailed support for points and demonstrates evidence of having read the book . Presentation is clear and easy to follow	20	
Slides: See “Creating Good Slides”	10	
Recommendation: Yes or no with meaningful reasons	5	
Presentation: Eye contact, volume of voice, use of notes	10	
Total:	50	

Historical Fiction Essay

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Received
Focus: Includes a thesis that <i>clearly</i> and <i>fully</i> addresses the prompt; all content effectively supports the thesis statement	5	
Content: Provides detailed support for points and demonstrates evidence of having read the book	15	
Organization: Presents a logical sequence of ideas connected by effective transitions	10	
Mechanics: Uses complete sentences & all handwriting is legible	10	
Length: Essay consists of an introduction, at least 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion	10	
Total:	50	

Test Grade

100 pts



Creating Good Slides

Good presentations have several qualities in common. Use these guidelines to make yours the best it can be.

Required:

Every slide presentation should include these elements.

1. Title slide that includes:
 - a. your name
 - b. the topic or title of the presentation
 - c. the date
 - d. the course
2. Slide numbers on each slide
3. Work(s) Cited on the last slide

Other Qualities:

Find the sweet spot in the following categories based on your audience and the nature of your presentation.

Bad	Good	Bad
Identical layouts	A variety of layouts suited to the slide contents	Too many random layouts
No graphics / background	Interesting design that relates to the topic	Distracting, loud background
No colors	Limited colors used consistently	Too many inconsistent colors
No images, unlabeled	Images (pictures or diagrams) that are captioned (labeled) and relate to the slide	Images that overwhelm the text on the slide
Font too small	Clear, easily readable font (no italics) in appropriate sizes for both title and text	Font too fancy to read
One word bullet points	Key ideas expressed in short, simple, accurate phrases	Complete sentences
No animation	Bullets that build on each slide, simple transitions	Loud, distracting animations

This website has helpful guidelines: <https://ibsc.ucsc.edu/training-resources/tips-for-effective-powerpoint-presentations/>