

Summer Assignment 2020 For Incoming 8th Graders Letter to an Author

Read a minimum of 4 short stories by the following authors. The 4 stories may all be from the same author or you may read a mix of stories from different authors.

O. Henry
Ray Bradbury
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Ernest Hemingway

Shirley Jackson
D.H. Lawrence
Doris Lessing
Edgar Allen Poe

Reflect and Connect

After reading the stories choose one story to focus on. ***You will be writing a personal letter to the author, explaining how his or her work affected you.*** Choose the story about which you have strong feelings. Explore those feelings and why you reacted the way you did during or after reading the author's work. The questions listed below are suggestions to get you thinking, they are not absolute requirements.

- Did the characters, conflict, or setting mirror your life in some way?
- What strengths or flaws do you share with a character or characters in the story?
- What did the story show you about your world that you never noticed before?
- What surprised you about yourself while you were reading this story?
- Why was this work meaningful to you?

Write a Personal Letter

Write a personal letter to the author where you share with them how their story resonated with you. *This is NOT a fan letter or a book report!* Be sure to express yourself clearly. Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author. Those are the best letters to read and the most fun to write! Keep these two tips in mind:

- Correspond, don't compliment! Your report should inform rather than flatter the author.
- Do not summarize the book's plot! The author wrote the book and already knows what happened. What the author doesn't know is how the book affected you.

Prepare your final draft.

- Length of letter must be between 300 and 600 words—NO MORE, NO LESS.
- Reports must be typed, double-spaced in a 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Format the letter properly with a salutation, introduction, body, closing, and signature.