Summer Reading Assignment for Students Entering 8th Grade Pre-AP English

Due Date: August 29, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are delighted to hear that your student has made the choice to enroll in a Pre-AP/AP course. You and your student have made a choice to accept an academic challenge, and we are here to support you both in any way that we can.

Your student received a copy of his/her summer reading assignment at school. He or she signed an “Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Assignment” form stating that he/she received the assignment for summer reading and that he/she understands that this is a requirement to enroll in a Pre-AP/AP course. The wording on the form is as follows:

By enrolling in a pre-AP/AP course, I understand that I am REQUIRED to complete a summer reading assignment. The details of the assignment are located within my grade-level specific documents. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received the assignment details, and I understand that I am required to complete this assignment BEFORE the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. I also understand that if I do not complete the required assignments, I will receive a failing grade for the assignments related to summer reading and will not be able to “redo” this assignment.

To ensure the success of your student, we wanted to be sure that our parents are aware of this assignment, its requirements (per grade level), and the due date. These specific guidelines are available on our district’s webpage for English Language Arts (ELA) for each grade level in which summer reading assignments are required (7th, 8th, English I, and English II, AP Language, and AP Literature).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at candi.callas@midlandisd.net or by calling me directly at (432) 240-1391. I am looking forward to working with you and your student next school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Candi Callas
Language Arts Director
Midland Independent School District
Choose 1 of the 2 Texts: **A Long Way Gone** or **I Am Malala**

Assignment: Dialectical Journal  
Due Date: 8/29/18

As you read through the novel, you will need to stop periodically and complete responses to the reading. In 8th grade, we call these journal entries your “Dialectical Journal.”

- You will need a total of 10 entries by the time you are done with the book.
- In your journal at the top of each page, you will need to title each entry Journal #1, Journal #2, Journal #3, etc., all the way to 10.
  - If you read *A Long Way Gone*, it is recommended that you do an entry every 2 chapters. If you read *I Am Malala*, you should do an entry around every 2 ½ chapters.

Instructions on how to complete a dialectical journal.

1. Find a saying, quote, or description that sticks out to you in the reading. (I recommend that you highlight several in each section and then go back and pick your favorite.)
2. Then, copy it word for word into the quote section of your journal and at the end of the quote make sure you tell me what page number it is located within the text. **REMEMBER** you must put quotation marks around whatever you copy since it is not your work.  
   **Ex. “Sorry to break it to you, but we are strangers. I just met you, remember?” p.63**

3. After you have written your saying, quote, or description at the top of the page, you will then give a thoughtful response about it next to the quote (in the 2nd column). This response must be a minimum of three sentences. **THESE RESPONSES SHOULD NOT BE SUMMARIES.**  
   **Ex. This reminds me of this girl I met and after five minutes of us talking, she asked me out. I said no because we just met, I didn’t know if I even liked her. It was a really weird experience, but we are friends to this day.**

Here are some example sentence starters for the response section of your journal:

1. This reminds me of....  
2. I wonder if....  
3. This makes me think of....  
4. I disagree because...  
5. I predict.....  
6. It seems important that...  
7. I don’t know.....  
8. This seems the same as....  
9. I understand but.....  
10. I like/don’t like how the author.....