

## Summer Reading!

What better way to increase brain power and maintain skills over the summer than reading a few great books! Students are assigned a book list and literacy activities.

Then when you return in September, bring your assignments to your new teacher and you will earn your first three "A's" of the new school year!

Your new teachers are excited to have this opportunity to see your ideas and get to know you a little better the first week of school.



\*Visit our website @ [dces.info](http://dces.info) for suggested book lists for each grade level

## Divine Child Junior High

This list contains *suggestions* for Summer Reading Projects for Students Entering 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Students are encouraged to read any other books at their individual Lexile level that are of interest to them.

1. *Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli
2. *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
3. *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
4. *Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust* by Allan Zullo
5. *The Fellowship of the Ring (one of the three books)* by J.R.R. Tolkien
6. *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne
7. *Heat* by Mike Lupica
8. *Maze Runner* by James Dashner
9. *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield
10. *Ties That Bind, Ties that Break* by Lensey Namioka
11. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
12. *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A Nielson
13. *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
14. *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
15. *The Underdogs* by Mike Lupica
16. *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
17. *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
18. *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
19. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
20. *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr
21. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
22. *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

## Junior High Summer Reading Requirements

You must read at least three books over the summer. For each book write the following information on an index card:

- Your Name
- Book Title
- Author
- At least three main characters and how they are involved in the plot
- Summary of the plot (3-5 sentences)
- The theme (central message, concern, lesson, or purpose in a literary work)

For one of the books you read, you must also complete a project. You can choose one of the following projects or come up with own idea (just email me at [minglek@dces.info](mailto:minglek@dces.info) over the summer to get approval first! [minglek@dces.info](mailto:minglek@dces.info)):

**Project #1** Create a “soundtrack” for the book. What 5 songs would you choose? Give an explanation for why you choose each song and how it connects to the events or characters in the book. Include the title, artist, and lyrics for each song. Make sure your name is on the front page, along with the title and author of the book.

**Project #2** In a power point , iMovie, or Windows Movie Maker presentation, create a book talk that explains what the book is about, the theme, the author, and plot information from the book. Use pictures and/or video that accurately show’s the contents of the book. Presentation should be no longer than 3-5 minutes.

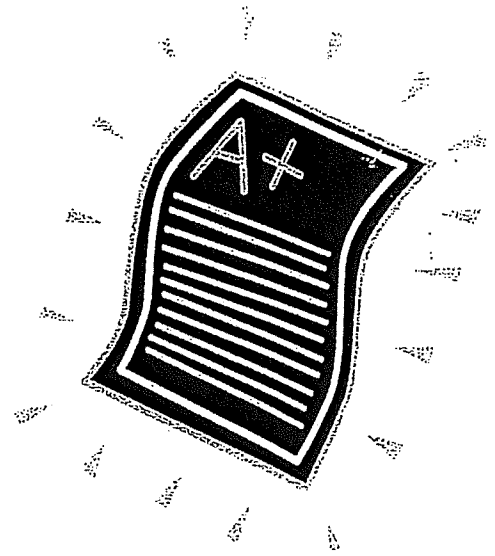
**Project #3** Write a series of letters between you and one of the people in the book. You will write a total of a least 4 letters that are each about a ½ page in length. The content of each letter should be about the story, and must include details that you imagine; either how the characters feels about some of the events in the story, or inside information that you make up using your imagination. Make sure that your name, the title, and the author, are included in the upper left hand corner of the first letter, and that all letters are stapled together.



## English/Language Arts Sites

### Grammar Reference Sites:

- Chompchomp: <http://www.chompchomp.com/menu.htm>
- Capital Community College Foundation: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>
- Easy Grammar Plus by Wanda C. Phillips (amazon.com)
- Super Grammar: <http://www.supergrammar.com/>
- Worksheet Works: <http://www.worksheetworks.com/>



### Writing Reference Sites:

- Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- EasyBib (citation generator): <http://www.easybib.com/>

### Interactive English Sites:

- Funbrain (parts of speech games): <http://www.funbrain.com/grammar/>
- Sheppard Software (grammar games, grammar tutorial, commas, capitalization): [http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web\\_games\\_vocab.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games_vocab.htm)
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade English site (grammar game links, "Schoolhouse Rock" lyrics, sort simple/compound/complex sentences): [http://site.ecfs.org/hornik/stories/storyReader\\$8](http://site.ecfs.org/hornik/stories/storyReader$8)
- Fun English Games (reading, grammar, writing, spelling): <http://www.funenglishgames.com/games.html>
- Houghton Mifflin (grammar quizzes for grades 6-8; units & cumulative reviews): [http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6\\_8/grammar/](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/grammar/)
- Grammar Untied (explanations of parts of speech, phrases, and clauses, interactive quizzes, worksheets with answers): <http://www.grammaruntied.com/toc.html>
- Voyages in English (grammar games for grades 3-8): <http://www.loyolapress.com/voyages-in-english-2011-student-games.htm?ftm=la#sthash.AbNHHBTb.dpbs>
- BrainPop (short animated video clips on grammar, writing, and reading topics; some include activities, quizzes, and games): <http://www.brainpop.com>
- A collection of English/Language Arts resources (grammar, proofreading, spelling, composition, writing, literature): <http://www.alline.org/euro/mla.html>

### Textbook Sites:

- Sadlier Oxford Vocabulary: <http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/vocabulary/vocabularyworkshop.cfm>
- Pearson/Prentice Hall Literature: [http://www.phschool.com/atschool/txtbk\\_res\\_ia.html](http://www.phschool.com/atschool/txtbk_res_ia.html)

## **Finding New Literature:**

- American Library Association Booklist Online:  
<http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>
- International Reading Association Choices Reading Lists: <http://reading.org/Resources/Booklists.aspx>
- Children's Literature Assembly: <http://childrensliteratureassembly.org/notables.html>
- Good Reads: <http://www.goodreads.com/>
- New York Public Library: <http://kids.nypl.org/book-lists>
- Teachers First: <http://www.teachersfirst.com/read-sei.cfm>

## **Book Reading Levels, Content, & Reviews:**

- Accelerated Reader: <http://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx>
- Good Reads: <http://www.goodreads.com/>
- Level it App: <http://levelitbooks.com/>

## **Nonfiction Research:**

- Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>
- Smithsonian: <http://smithsonianeducation.org/>
- NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov/>
- The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
- American Museum of Natural History: <http://www.amnh.org/>
- Discovery: <http://dsc.discovery.com/>
- The National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/>
- Kids Computer Lab: <http://www.kidscomputerlab.org/>