

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List – GT Academy

All students will read **3 TOTAL books, ONE from each of the 3 categories below:**

## **Category 1**

*The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster

OR

*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis

OR

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

## **Category 2**

*White Fang* by Jack London

OR

*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

OR

*War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells

OR

*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls OR

*Dragonwings* by Lawrence Yep

OR

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor

## **Category 3**

*Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir* by Farah Ahmed and Timim Ansary

OR

*Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson and Cecil Murphey

OR

Any other contemporary memoir of comparable merit that you have not read prior to receiving this assignment.

# Summer Reading Activity

**All students should keep ONE dialectical journal with appropriate information from EACH of the 3 books** they chose formatted exactly according to the *Setting Up Your Dialectical Journal* instructions below. **Students should bring this dialectical journal with them, COMPLETED, to the first day of 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.** A rubric is posted on the next page along with the requirements to give students guidance, but this does not necessarily mean the journal itself will be graded. Regardless of whether or not there is a specific grade on the journal, it will provide students an invaluable resource when preparing for the summer reading timed-writing and quizzes in their first few weeks of class and a valuable foundation for discussion at the beginning of the year.

## **Setting Up Your Dialectical Journal**

In **ONE** composition book, **create 5 sections**, one for each of the literary devices listed below (archetype, imagery, mood/atmosphere, unique narrative perspective, and theme). Leave about 3 - 4 blank pages in each section (You may not use it all, but it is better to have the space). In other words, you will have one section for archetype, one section for imagery, etc. **Do NOT make a separate section for each book you read.** All examples of archetype from any of the books you choose to read will all go in the one "Archetype" section. **Create 2 columns on every page**, one for quotes and one for responding to the quote. Every time you enter a quote, you will enter a detailed, concise response. Quotes<sup>1</sup> should relate to examples/observations about the following literary devices and students should **get between 3 – 5 strong examples of EACH device** in their journals (NOT 3 – 5 from each book, but altogether). **Always put the page number after each quote in parenthesis. Example: (69)**

## **How to Annotate and Respond to Each Required Literary Device**

### **1) Archetype**

- a. In the Quote column, quote a brief description of a character/environment or a character's thoughts/actions that you feel bring out a particular archetype in literature.
- b. In the Response column, explain specifically which archetype the quote brings out and how specifically the quote shows this archetype. **NOTE: Archetype is much broader than the Hero's Journey. See the list of possible archetypes attached to this handout. Research them as needed.**

### **2) Imagery**

- a. In the Quote column, quote a brief section of text that shows vivid imagery. Choose and highlight words that appeal to the senses and allow the reader to visualize the scene.
- b. In the Response column, explain what effect that imagery has on the meaning of the text. Why do you think the author used imagery at this point in the story? What effect does it have on the reader?

### **3) Specific Language That Sets the Mood/Atmosphere**

- a. Find a section of maybe a few paragraphs and in the Quote column, quote individual words/phrases within the section that bring out the mood. List all the applicable individual words/phrases within the paragraphs as one entry with commas separating them.
- b. In the Response column, identify exactly what mood the words/phrases bring out and why/how they do it. Don't respond to each individual word, but the meaning they all create as a whole.

### **4) Parallelisms**

- a. In the Quote column, quote text that clearly and purposefully uses some form of parallelism for emphasis and/or effect. *Name the type of parallelism if you can.* Research may assist you with this.
- b. In the Response column, explain why the author used the parallelism and its intended effect on the reader. Evaluate the effectiveness of the parallelism on you and/or other potential readers.

### **5) Theme**

- a. In the Quote column, find short quotes that you feel imply the theme of the work as a whole or a particular section of the work.
- b. In the Response column, explain how the quote implies the theme using specific details from the text.

---

<sup>1</sup> Quotes are words copied directly from the text (can be narration or dialogue).

Skill	Not Meeting Standard	Progressing	Proficient	Exemplary
<b>Dialectical Journal</b>	<p>The student evaluates material so <u>inconsistently</u> that it is impossible to determine a meaningful opinion or may not have identified any specific examples from the text to support opinions.</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p><u>The journal is extremely unorganized, which halts the understanding of the student's thought process.</u> The teacher never truly is able to gain insight into the student's thought process while reading.</p>	<p>The student evaluates material <u>inconsistently</u> or may not have identified enough specific examples from the text to support opinions.</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p><u>Some teacher inferences may be needed</u> in order to give the teacher insight into the student's thought process while reading.</p> <p>And/OR</p> <p><u>The journal is somewhat unorganized, which requires significant effort on the teacher's part to sort through in order to gain a meaningful understanding of the student's thought process.</u></p>	<p>The student evaluates material <u>competently, but not comprehensively</u>. Overall, the student is <u>able to communicate effectively with specific comments about the text</u></p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Student may have written a little too much or too little for the journal to be completely effective.</p>	<p>The student evaluates material <u>comprehensively with insight</u>, giving the teacher insight into the student's thought process while reading.</p> <p>Student <u>formats</u> dialectical journal according to the instructions and <u>attends to the specifics</u> highlighted in the section entitled "How to Annotate and Respond to Each Required Literary Device."</p>

## Summer Reading Rationale and Supporting Information

In an effort to give students a diversified, meaningful summer reading experience, the list has been separated into 3 related thematic pairs: (1) Allegorical, (2) Constraints, and (3) Overcoming Obstacles. By arranging the list this way, students are provided a choice between multiple books in each section with a variety of culturally diverse protagonists and reading levels, while still preparing for meaningful discussion on the broader themes/literary devices regardless of their choice.

In the first section, *The Phantom Tollbooth* is an allegory about the acquisition of knowledge; *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* is an allegory centered on the key tenants of the Christian faith; *The Pearl* is an allegory of oppression/greed; and *A Wrinkle in Time* is an allegory of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In the second section, *White Fang*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *War of the Worlds*, *The Outsiders*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *Dragonwings*, and *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* all deal with either natural or social rules governing our behavior, connecting as the practical application of the broader conceptual allegorical frameworks from the first section.

In the final section, *Gifted Hands* and *Other Side of the Sky* both show the struggle to overcome obstacles. They connect to the other groups, showing how, when faced with obstacles in society, they can be overcome in a positive way. These two books are also memoirs instead of fiction, adding a new style dimension to the list, as well as being contemporary while the others are more standard classics in curriculum nationwide.

### Background Research Recommendation for Individual Novels

It is highly recommended that before reading any of the selections on the list that students use the internet to research background information on the content to determine a historical context and gain perspective on the content before beginning to read or even making a choice to start reading. Many students in the past have complained about a book on the list and we have asked them, "Why didn't you pick something else if you didn't like it?" Their nearly identical answer is always, "Well, I started it and I didn't want to start another one." By doing a small amount of research up front and going to a book store and reading the first few pages of each book, students are much more likely to pick a book that is at an appropriate reading level and that will interest them.

## Archetypes Beyond the Hero's Journey

Do not settle for only the archetypes you learned in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Use this list as a source of other possible archetypes. Research what they are, if needed.

Actor	Gambler	Pioneer
Addict	God	Pirate
Advocate	Goddess	Poet
Alchemist	Gossip	Priest
Altruist	Guide	Prince
Angel	Healer	Princess
Artist	Hedonist	Queen
Athlete	Hermit	Rebel
Beggar	Hero/Heroine	Rescuer
Bully	Judge	Samaritan
Clown	King	Scholar
Coward	Knight	Scribe
Companion	Liberator	Shaman
Damsel	Lover	Seeker
Destroyer	Magician	Servant
Detective	Martyr	Shape-shifter
Deva	Mentor	Slave
Dilettante	Messiah	Storyteller
Don Juan	Midas/Miser	Student
Engineer	Monk/Nun	Teacher
Entrepreneur	Mother	Thief
Exorcist	Mystic	Trickster
Father	Networker	Vampire
Femme Fatale	Peacemaker	Visionary
Fool	Philosopher	Warrior
		Wizard
		Wanderer