



NEW PALTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dr. Richard Wiesenthal
Principal

Mrs. Ann Sheldon
Assistant Principal

June 2018

Dear Incoming Eighth Grade English Students, Parents, and Guardians:

As you already know, reading is an essential skill in your life. Reading books that you choose contributes to your growth as both an individual and a student. To prepare for the beginning of the school year, please continue to read books of your choosing this summer. Choose one of these books to use while completing the Active Reading Notes packet that is included in this letter. Please be sure that the title(s) are appropriate choices for you at this point in your academic career. These books should be new to you. If you need help choosing titles, please visit the New Paltz Middle School Library's webpage. When you read fiction, you should think about and analyze key elements of plot, character, setting, theme, and point of view. When you read nonfiction, you should think about and analyze facts, what you learn, and how you learn it.

As you explore titles to read this summer, you may want to start a list of titles you would like to read in the future. It is essential that parents and guardians play an active role in their child's reading and in deciding what is or is not appropriate for their child's specific maturity and reading levels. Please refrain from choosing titles that you have already read and those which we will cover in our curriculum, which include, but are not limited to: *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*, *All of the Above*, *Ghost*, *Fish in a Tree*, *Nine*, *Ten: A September 11 Story*, *Orbiting Jupiter*, *Lily and Dunkin*, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *Out of my Mind*, *12 Angry Men*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The 8th grade supply list is on the opposite side of this letter. We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Denman and Mrs. Sullivan
Eighth Grade English Teachers

(OVER)

8th Grade Supply List 2018-2019 School Year

For Regular Academic Subjects (English, Foreign Language, Math, Science, Social Studies):

- **Binders-** 1-inch binders can hold materials for individual subjects, 3-inch binders can hold materials for 2-3 subjects
- **Binder** – 1.5 or 2.0 inch three ring binder. Foreign Language
- **Folders**
- **Loose Leaf**
- **Dividers** (for all subjects)
- **Pens** (black or blue ink)
- **Highlighters**
- **Post-It Notes**
- **Pencils** (required for all math classes).
- **Large eraser** (required for all math classes).
- **Pencil Pouch**

Additional:

- **2 Composition Books** (1 for Spanish, 1 for Health).
- **All 8th grade students: Scientific calculator** - (Texas Instrument 30X II S preferred). Most students should already have this calculator, as it was a required purchase in 7th grade.
- **Additional purchase if enrolled in Algebra I (Integrated Algebra)** - Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator (Model: TI-84 Plus). This calculator will also be used for several years at the high School level as well. These calculators are significantly less expensive during the early part of summer.
- **1 additional pocket folders-** 1 for Home and Careers and 1 for Health, and a flash drive is strongly recommended.
- **Gym clothing for P.E.** Shorts, t-shirt - active wear to be left in gym locker to change into for P.E. class. Sneakers on P.E. days, too!

Name _____ Circle one: Fiction or Nonfiction

Book Title _____ Author _____

Active Reading Notes

Directions: As you read, make observations. Record those observations (2-3 for every 20 pages of reading) below. The categories to observe are suggested below, but you are encouraged to acknowledge and analyze all elements of craft that you see. Use the model to help you.

Things to consider when reading fiction: Plot Development Thematic Connections Emerging Issues
 Character Setting Writer's Craft Key Lines Prediction

Things to consider when reading nonfiction: Structure Word Choice Key Lines
 Setting World Connections Emerging Issues Impacts on Humans

	Page #	Category	Text-Based Example	Classification/Analysis
	Be sure to note the page where you made the observation	Identify the category from the list above	Either quote OR paraphrase the example from text.	Further identify how this information fits into the category and explain what it is showing or why the author might have included it.
M O D E L	Example 1 from <i>The Cay</i> Page 7	setting	<i>Narrow, gables house in Willemstad, Curacao, a Dutch Island off of coast of Venezuela 1942</i>	<i>Author establishes key aspects of the exposition by giving detailed setting information to reader. They are immediately informed of place and war time conflicts impacting the plot.</i>
	Example 2 from <i>The Cay</i> Page 14	Character	<i>"My mother closed her eyes and pulled me up against her thin body. She was like that. One minute, shaking me, the next, holding me."</i>	<i>Author indirectly characterizes mother to show her many concerns about her child through actions. She is both concerned and loving, but also sometimes frustrated with his behavior.</i>

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