



8th Grade Advanced ELA Summer Reading

All rising 8th-grade ELA honors students will read two novels over the summer and complete the indicated assignments, which are due on Monday, August 11th, 2025.

Every student will read *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

You must also read **one** of the following:

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

OR

BOMB - The Race to Build - and Steal - the World's Most Dangerous Weapon
by Steve Sheinkin (Note: this may not be the graphic novel.)

Please complete the “AS YOU READ” activities that are below and answer the attached questions on a separate piece of paper or type the answers into a Word document to be printed. Unless specifically asked to create a list, each answer should be in complete sentences, using details from the story to support your response. Note that specific questions are provided for each of the novels.

While you may wish to access Bible study tools in order to answer some of the questions below, you may NOT copy and paste information from online sources or quote references of any type without giving a citation. Doing so is plagiarism and will result in a zero for the assignment.

This is due for a grade on **Monday, August 11th, 2025.**

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Please complete the "AS YOU READ" activities and answer the attached questions on a separate piece of paper or type the answers into a Word document to be printed. Unless specifically asked to create a list, each answer should be in complete sentences, using details from the story to support your response. Note that specific questions are provided for each of the novels.

While you may wish to access Bible study tools in order to answer some of the questions below, you may NOT copy and paste information from online sources or quote references of any type without giving a citation. Doing so is plagiarism and will result in a zero for the assignment.

AS YOU READ:

- Make a list of 10 words that you are unfamiliar with.
Define each word and quote how it is used in the book. Give a page number.
- List five thought-provoking questions that come to mind about the story or the world as you read.

AFTER YOU READ

- Comprehension Questions:
 1. Provide 2-3 detailed sentences about each of these characters. Include information about their physical appearance and personality.

Meg Murray

Charles Wallace Murray

Mrs. Murray

Mr. Murray

Sandy and Dennis Murray

Mrs. Who

Mrs. Which

Mrs. Whatsit

Calvin O'Keefe

IT

2. Identify and describe the multiple settings of the story.

3. List three challenges that Meg Murray faces throughout her journey.
4. Compare Meg's character development at the beginning and end of the story. How does she change?
5. Explain the different roles of Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Who in the narrative.
6. John 1:5 says, "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." How does this scripture apply to the themes of good and evil in *A Wrinkle in Time*?
7. Explain how the concept of hope is portrayed in "A Wrinkle in Time." How does it relate to biblical teachings? Make sure to cite any biblical reference.
8. Explain how Meg's relationship with her family influences her actions. Describe a time in your life when your relationship with a family member influenced your behavior or decisions.
9. Compare a character from the story to a biblical character who exemplifies the ideal of sacrifice for someone else. Make sure to cite any biblical reference.
10. Choose two characters who had a perceived weakness. Explain how they had to either overcome or use that weakness in order to meet the challenges faced in the narrative.

The Inheritance Game by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

AS YOU READ:

- Make a list of 10 words that you are unfamiliar with.
Define each word and quote how it is used in the book. Give a page number.
- List five thought-provoking questions that come to mind about the story or the world as you read.

AFTER YOU READ

- Comprehension Questions:
 1. Who is the main character in *The Inheritance Games*?
 2. Provide detailed descriptions of three important characters.
 3. Define the main premise of the inheritance challenge.
 4. Identify and describe the setting of the novel.
 5. What are the rules of the inheritance game?
 6. Compare the motivations of Avery and the other heirs for wanting the inheritance.
 7. Summarize the relationship dynamics between Avery and the Hawthorne brothers.
 8. Classify the different types of puzzles presented in the inheritance game.

9. Estimate how Avery's background influences her decisions throughout the story.
10. Discuss how the theme of trust is portrayed in the relationships among the characters.
11. Investigate the significance of the Hawthorne family's history in shaping the current events of the story.
12. Formulate an argument on whether Avery's actions align with a biblical worldview of honesty and integrity. Include at least one scripture reference.
13. Analyze how *The Inheritance Games* explores themes of greed and generosity within a biblical context. Include at least one scripture reference.
14. Apply concepts from the novel to discuss how the pursuit of wealth can affect one's sense of morality and community in real life. Include at least one scripture reference.

BOMB by Steven Sheinkin

AS YOU READ:

- Make a list of 10 words that you are unfamiliar with.
Define each word and quote how it is used in the book. Give a page number.
- List five thought-provoking questions that come to mind about the story or the world as you read.

AFTER YOU READ

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the primary focus of the book "BOMB: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon" by Steve Sheinkin?
2. List the key scientists mentioned in the book and their contributions to the development of the atomic bomb.
3. Identify the countries involved in the race to build the atomic bomb during World War II.
4. Compare the motivations of the scientists in the Manhattan Project with those involved in espionage efforts during the same period.
5. Summarize the ethical dilemmas faced by scientists working on the atomic bomb as described in the book.
6. Classify the different types of espionage tactics used by both the Allies and the Axis powers.

7. Assess the impact of the atomic bomb on World War II and its long-term effects on international relations.
8. Consider the moral implications of creating a weapon of mass destruction from a biblical worldview with verses such as 2 Timothy 1:7, Ecclesiastes 3:8, or others.
9. Formulate your opinion on whether the ends justified the means in the development of the atomic bomb, considering both scientific progress and ethical concerns.
10. Analyze the role of secrecy in the Manhattan Project and its implications for transparency in scientific research today. Include one well-cited reference to a current scientific issue.

Summer Reading Response Rubric

Vocabulary list/definitions and quotes	_____ of 20 pts
5 Thought-provoking questions	_____ of 10 pts
Sentences in written responses.	_____ of 20 pts
Detailed Examples in written responses	_____ of 20 pts
In-text Citations (page numbers)	_____ of 10 pts
Grammar	_____ of 10 pts
Spelling	_____ of 10 pts
Total grade	_____ of 100

Remember:

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