Ross Sterling Middle School  
Summer Reading Assignments  
For 6th - 8th grade  
Summer 2015-2016

Choose 1 novel from the list provided. Read the novel and make any notes you feel will help you with your summer project.

Choose 1 of the following project options to demonstrate your understanding of the novel you have read. This project will be one of your first important grades for the 2016-2017 academic year, so make sure that it showcases your talent and abilities. This project requires a significant amount of time beyond just reading the book; do not rush your project. Regardless of the project chosen the following information should be included to demonstrate knowledge and relevance to the novel’s: plot of the story, characters involved, themes or “big ideas” in the story, and your opinion of the book.

Project Options (Choose 1)

1. Design a multimedia presentation (about 1 and a half minutes long) for your novel. Some ideas are as follows: book/movie trailer, recreate a scene, a recorded book talk that covers one of the themes in the novel, investigate and reveal the intricacies of a character, rewrite a chapter/scene, etc. (Be creative using technology. No Power Points allowed.) Options are endless! Some resources would be iMovie or Windows Movie Maker. Or web based programs like Animoto (https://animoto.com/)

2. Make an illustrated timeline of the novel. You must illustrate 10 different events/scenes from the story you selected. Your illustrations must be put in proper order for your book, and should show the characters and events of importance throughout your story. Be sure to include a written explanation of why you chose each scene and how it relates to the entire novel or to the theme of the novel. Illustrations will be graded on quality and must be in color; no stick figures will be accepted.

3. Create a newspaper for the town/city your story takes place in. Have the stories and features of the newspaper be about the characters and events in your novel. Your newspaper should contain information about the characters, setting, plot, and theme(s) of the novel. The newspaper should be informative and must contain text and pictures. Be creative! Use the computer to type your newspaper.

4. Make a soundtrack to your book. Choose 10 – 15 songs and make a soundtrack that connects you’re your book. Then write liner notes, a short paragraph for each song you have selected explaining why you chose that song, what part of the book the song connects to. Songs could be chosen to represent a characters and event in the novel or to tie in with a larger theme throughout the book. You do not need to include an actual copy of the music but can if you want. Liner notes must be typed.

5. Book Jacket: Must be your own design – do not duplicate an original book jacket

Create a colorful, engaging book jacket that includes the following:
   a. **Cover:** New cover for the book with illustration, title, author, and student name.
   b. **Inner Flap:** (left side):
      * Summary – Sequential summary of key story events from the reading
      * Characters – discuss the major characters in the story and their personalities
   c. **Inner Flap:** (right side):
      * Text Connections ( 1 text to text, 1 text to self, and 1 text to world)
   d. **Back Flap:** Theme – Description of the novel’s theme (make sure to support your answer with specific examples from the story)

Suggested website links and supporting documents:

http://desktoppub.about.com/od/glossary/g/Book-Jacket.htm  
http://www.readwritethink.net/files/resources/interactives/bookcover/  
http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/  
http://www.timerime.com/  
Newspaper:  
http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/Printing_Press/
## Ross Sterling Middle School
### Summer Reading Assignment Rubric
#### For 6th - 8th grade
#### Summer 2015-2016

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<th>4 Excellent work</th>
<th>3 Acceptable work</th>
<th>2 Adequate work</th>
<th>1 Disappointing work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme</strong></td>
<td>Project shows clear understanding of the big ideas and messages behind the novel. Includes insightful comments not only about what themes are present but how those themes can be expressed beyond the novel.</td>
<td>The major themes from the story are included and explained by the student. Some effort has been made to show how these themes were expressed and could relate.</td>
<td>Some themes in the work are missing from student's presentation. Themes that are listed are not explained or explored in much detail. Lists without connection.</td>
<td>Project is missing discussion of themes or only mentions some possible themes, without showing how or where these ideas are connected to the novel.</td>
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<td><strong>Character</strong></td>
<td>Each and every major character is fully explored and discussed through the student's project. The project shows a clear understanding of the characterization and how the author built the characters as well as the character motivations and traits.</td>
<td>All characters are described through the student's project. Some explanation and exploration of who the characters are and how they relate to other characters and events is attempted. Student has not fully explored all aspects.</td>
<td>Some characters may be listed or missing, very little comment on characterization is provided. Lists of characters without commentary.</td>
<td>Little to no discussion of the characters. Hard to tell if the story has been read, names of characters and little else.</td>
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<td><strong>Plot</strong></td>
<td>The plot of the novel is fully explained and explored. The project shows a careful and detailed reading of the novel. Student has made connections and insights into the plot beyond simply explaining the events.</td>
<td>The plot of the story is included and complete. This is not simply a summary of the story but a well written explanation of what takes place throughout the novel. Provides some insight on the events.</td>
<td>Student has provided a brief summary of the events in the novel without commentary or explanation.</td>
<td>Some aspects of the story are missing or not fully explained, hard to follow the events. It is not clear that the student has read the novel at all.</td>
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<td><strong>Quality</strong></td>
<td>Project is clearly something the student worked hard on. Artwork is carefully drawn and colored, written portions are typed and free from errors. The project shows a finished quality that a student should be proud of.</td>
<td>Project shows effort to produce a finished product. Illustrations show the result of time and attention. Some errors may persist but they do not distract from the content of the work.</td>
<td>Some time was spent on project but there are clear signs that more effort was needed. Extensive errors can be distracting and should have been fixed before a final copy was turned in.</td>
<td>Project was clearly rushed and has not been carefully constructed. Illustrations and artwork are uncolored, sloppy, or missing. Spelling and grammatical errors make project difficult to read.</td>
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