

8th

# Corbett Preparatory School of IDS

June 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Reading is a vital part of every child's development. At Corbett Prep, the students actively read throughout the year, both as a class and individually. Reading promotes comprehension, develops vocabulary, and increases sensitivity to other cultures, social conditions, historical events, and the student's own personal awareness.

The summer reading program encourages students to actively read during the months that they are away from school. The summer reading list and the accompanying assignments for your child are attached.

## THE TWO REQUIRED BOOKS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The required book for the middle school is either *Just Like Me: Stories and Self-Portraits by Fourteen Artists* or *Honoring our Ancestors: Stories and Pictures by Fourteen Artists*, both edited by Harriet Rohmer.
2. The required book for eighth grade is Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*.

## TWO REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

- A. For the required book choices for middle school, your child will complete all of the assignments explained on the Middle School Summer Reading Handout. Please make sure that your child follows all directions as they are explained in this handout.
- B. For the novel, *The Alchemist*, your child will need to complete an attached activity called "Novel in a Nutshell" as a summer assignment. This form compels the students to look more deeply into the text, requiring them to show their understanding of the basic elements of literature, and to respond personally to the work. **Critical thinking questions** are part of this assignment, and these are required to accompany the "Novel in a Nutshell."

**\*\*The final drafts of these assignments require a parent signature.** \*\* Please take this opportunity to discuss the literature that your child has read with him or her. You may find yourself engaged in a wonderful dialogue inspired by your child's reading. *When you sign each assignment, you acknowledge that you are aware of what your child has read and that s/he understands the text.*

If your child chooses to read more than the two required texts, extra credit will be given in Language and Literature class for going above and beyond. **\*Please sign a list of all other novels read and attach to the other two completed assignments.**

**Reading assignments and notes are due to be turned in on the first day of school in Language and Literature class.**

If you would like to examine the titles before purchasing the books or checking them out of the library, please visit sites like [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesnoble.com](http://www.barnesnoble.com). These sites offer summaries and reviews of all the books on this list.

Thank you for your support in encouraging your child's reading. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We would be happy to speak with you about the Corbett Prep summer reading program. Reading is a learned joy, and we hope that all students discover it.

Sincerely,

Mr. Woodrow Samuel  
Eighth Grade English  
(813) 961-3087 x 357

# Novel in a Nutshell Activity Sheet

Name  
Date  
Class

Title of novel: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

(You are allowed to recreate this on Word if you would rather type your answers.)

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<b>Main Character(s):</b> Give a brief description of at least three.	<b>Protagonist:</b>
	<b>Main Antagonist:</b>
	<b>Additional Important Character:</b>
<b>Exposition</b> (Include setting details.)	
<b>Complication/Central Problem</b>	
<b>Rising Action: Event 1</b>	
<b>Event 2:</b>	

Climax:	
Falling Action:	
Resolution:	

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### Critical Thinking Questions (Included with the above!)

Choose two of the following questions to answer in at least one complete paragraph **for each** that includes many examples, details, and plot points. Please **type** your answers on a separate sheet of paper.\*\*\*

1. What trait does the main character have that I do not have but would like? Explain.
2. What trait do I have that the antagonist needs? Explain.
3. What is one positive trait that the main character and I share?
4. How did the main character change throughout the novel? Describe him or her at the beginning of the book, the conflicts he or she experienced, and explain how he or she was changed as a result of the conflict. (Think about a life lesson your character learned.)
5. What do you think is the central theme of the book? Support your idea with specific examples, details, and plot points from the book.
6. Did you enjoy the book? Support your opinion with specific details and examples from the book. (Use specific plot points!)
7. Describe the primary conflict from your novel. Explain why this conflict was important to the novel and how it was resolved. Support your explanation with specific plots points from the book.

\*\*\***Hints:** A lot, thing, things, and stuff are dead words. You may use other more descriptive words. **Show what a strong writer you are with your work.** Capitalization, punctuation, and grammar will be expected to be just as amazing as you are. You need to stay with 12 pt Times New Roman as your font and size for your Critical Thinking Questions and Answers. Use MLA format for your work.

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## SUMMER 2020: REQUIRED MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

**TEXTS (Select and read one):**

- *Just Like Me: Stories and Self-Portraits by Fourteen Artists*, edited by Harriet Rohmer
- *Honoring Our Ancestors: Stories and Pictures by Fourteen Artists*, edited by Harriet Rohmer

**TASK:** After reading your chosen text, answer the questions in the following chart on your own piece of paper. **Your answers are due on the first day of school.**

Your teachers are expecting thorough and thoughtful answers. Remember to check grammar and spelling before submitting your work. Responses should be an impressive reflection of your amazing thinking and writing abilities!

<b>Reflect on the Art</b>
The artists all created artworks representing themselves or an ancestor. 1. What similarities did you notice across the artworks? 2. What differences did you notice across the artworks? 3. Which artwork stood out to you as particularly powerful? Explain why.
<b>Reflect on the Text</b>
Each artist wrote a page of text to explain the artwork they created for this book. 4. What similarities did you notice in their explanations? 5. What differences did you notice? 6. Which explanation stood out to you as particularly powerful? Explain why.
<b>Make Connections</b>
Imagine you were asked to create a piece of art representing you or one of your ancestors for a book like this one. 7. Which of these fourteen artists would you want to imitate? Why? 8. What details would you want to include? Examples in the books included paintbrushes, planes, tigers, family photographs, etc.

## SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS AWARD (SSYA) BOOK CHALLENGE

Students are encouraged to read beyond the required books. This summer, all students are invited to participate in the middle school's SSYA Book Challenge!

- To participate, students read as many books as they can from the listing of 2020-2021 grade 6-8 SSYA book titles. The titles can be found online at <https://www.floridamediaed.org/ssya.html>.
- Students will earn extra credit in English class for all books read beyond those required.
- Students who read more than five books from the list will be recognized when school resumes in fall.

- To keep track of all this amazing reading, parents are asked to list all books read and attach this listing to the required summer book assignments. This list must include a parent signature and is due on the first day of school.



# **SSYRA Books**



## **2020-2021 Grades 6-8**

*The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman

*Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows* by Ryan  
Calejo

*City Spies* by James Ponti

*Deep Water: A Story of Survival* by Watt Key

*Float* by Laura Martin

*Game Changer* by Tom Greenwald

*Inkling* by Kenneth Oppel

*Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood

*Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

*The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan  
Gemeinhart

*Scouts* by Shannon Greenland

*Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly

*Spark* by Sarah Beth Durst

*We're Not From Here* by Geoff Rodkey

**How many will you read???**