

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite Summer Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English – Summer Assignment

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade year in ELA is going to explore the *power of change* through the reading and writing of fiction and nonfiction texts. This idea fits nicely with the many concepts from students' social studies class as they will do a deep-dive on elections, the executive branch, and the changes to our country. Please read through the instructions and if you have any questions, please email me at [nickm@spokaneschools.org](mailto:nickm@spokaneschools.org). I should have email access and availability most of the summer.

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For your summer assignment, **please read a biography/autobiography/memoir of a former president.** You could go back to the founding fathers, choose a president from a turning point in the country's history, pick a president that served recently, or decide to study any other president. Completing this reading will connect to both our first unit on narrative reading/writing in English and help you better understand the executive branch and elections for social studies. We are trying to really explore how life felt during this time and reading a biography/autobiography/memoir can help us better picture or imagine this time and place.

If you have problems finding a book, please reach out to me. I would also recommend going to your local branch of the Spokane Public Library and asking a librarian for help finding a *middle grade biography on a president*. There are lots of biographies of presidents directed to this age range!

**PART 1: Initial Thoughts** - After choosing your book, please answer the following questions:

- 1) Who is your chosen president?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Why did you choose this president? What made them interesting to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What is the title of the biography/autobiography that you are reading for this activity? The author? Why did you choose this book?

**PART 2: Important Events** – As you read the book, please list any important events that you find. These could be major events (getting elected president) or smaller events that feel meaningful (meeting a friend). Try to fill up all the bullet points if possible!

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**PART 3: Your Analysis** - Pick one influential event from the biography that you listed above and answer the following four questions about this event. Not every event will be explored in this way, but many will have an incident, response, and reflection. This activity will tie directly into our very first unit on narrative writing as we will explore the power of telling our own story using these proven techniques.

**Try to be thorough with your responses and answer each question in five+ sentences. Please write your responses neatly on a separate sheet of paper OR type them up. Either one is fine!**

- 1) What is the **incident** (central piece of action that is the focus of the narrative – the event that occurs)? Describe what happened in this incident with as much detail as possible.  
*Example: George got a haircut. His old powdered wig was gone and he now had a mustard-yellow mohawk.*
- 2) What is the **reaction** (the immediate emotions and actions associated with the incident)? How did others respond? How did the character respond?  
*Example: People couldn't believe his new look. George stared at the others in fear and disbelief.*
- 3) What is the **reflection** (description that explores the significance of the incident)? What did the character learn? How were they changed by this experience? Did this influence other parts of their life?  
*Example: George learned to embrace who he is and not worry about what others thought. This led to...*
- 4) What is the **connection**? How can this connect to your own life? Have you every experienced something similar (in any way)? Try to build a connection from your life to the incident/reaction/reflection from the story. Think about the feelings of the character, the lesson they learned, and how this experience changed their life.  
*Example: I felt similarly when I gained confidence after going out for the soccer team. I wasn't very good, but I realized that I didn't care what others thought and I needed to embrace my true self.*

## Suggestion... Summer Reading!?

Also, please continue to read other things that interest, excite, and push you this summer. Here is a great checklist of other genres and topics to explore if you are interested. If you haven't tried some of these genres/styles, then give them a chance this summer! Now is a great time to explore other types of literature that you haven't experienced in the past.

Happy Reading!

- A non-fiction book
- A graphic novel
- A book that takes place in a different country
- A science fiction book
- A book on a topic you know nothing about
- A biography (bonus if you then compare it to an autobiography of the same person!)
- A book that contains a sport/activity you love
- A book about a historical event that interests you
- Listen to any audiobook
- A book from a fantasy series
- A book of short stories
- A historical fiction book
- A book that's been made into a movie
- A mystery book
- A book by someone who looks different than you
- A book that is older than fifty year

If you feel extra excited to share what you read, please complete a short book review on a a separate sheet of paper (see below). I would love to get more great book recommendations from our students.

**Book Review** – You are a professional book critic and need to review this book. What did you enjoy about this book? What did you not enjoy? What would you change? Would you recommend it to a friend and why? How many stars (out of five) would you give this book and why? Please thoroughly answer these questions so that your book review is 1-2 paragraphs long. Again, if you have any questions about the summer assignment or the upcoming year, please email me at [nickm@spokaneschools.org](mailto:nickm@spokaneschools.org). I should have email access and availability most of the summer 😊