

# Summer Reading 2024

You may bring your essay during the 2024 visitation day. If you choose not to bring it then, it is due on the FIRST Monday of the new school year. For every day that it is late thereafter, 5 points will be deducted from your overall essay grade. There are five essay topic options for each assignment/grade. Choose ONE of the five topics to write your essay on. Your essay needs to be typed in a 12-point Times New Roman or similar font. Your heading should be formatted as follows:

Your Name

Teacher's Name (Mrs. Esler)

Class (ELA- 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Date

Essays for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade should consist of (at minimum) five paragraphs, with the first paragraph stating the thesis (or main idea) of the essay, the following three (or more) paragraphs giving details to support your thesis, and the final paragraph restating your thesis and concluding your essay.

For 7<sup>th</sup> grade, your essay should be approximately 500 words, and essays for 8<sup>th</sup> grade should be approximately 750 words. Remember to use proper essay formatting, correct grammar, and correct spelling. Having a friend and/or family member proofread your essay is a great way to ensure that it is as error-free as possible!

During the first week of school, we will discuss the novel and its themes, as well as discuss your essays. We will also have a quiz on the book to ensure that it has been read.

Remember: Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic "0" on any assignment (including this essay) found to be plagiarized. God has given us an amazing gift of words. Use the words He has blessed YOU with to portray your OWN ideas!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Assignment:

*A Wrinkle in Time* - Madeleine L'Engle

### Essay Topic 1

Analyze the character of Charles Wallace, being sure to address the fact that he is a savant, as well as the implied connection between Charles and Calvin. Be sure to also define how his character is essential to the story.

### Essay Topic 2

Write an essay discussing the moment in a person's life when the concept of good and evil becomes clear. When is this moment for Meg? Use examples from the novel to support your argument(s).

### Essay Topic 3

Born in 1918, Madeleine L'Engle grew to be one of America's most beloved authors of the 20th century. Her deep roots of faith and love of science led her to the understanding that science and God are not at odds. This was a radical and (to some) even blasphemous idea that appears as themes in several of her novels, including *A Wrinkle in Time*.

For this essay, depict the moral message of *A Wrinkle in Time* and how science and religion are fused together in the novel. Define the message or messages you think L'Engle is trying to get across and cite specific passages to back up your opinion. Evaluate the strength of moral messages in the novel.

### Essay Topic 4

Analyze the role of gossip in the novel. The main points of your essay should include (1) how gossip starts as it does at the post office in the novel, (2) how gossip hurts innocent people as it does Meg, and (3) how it is best to deal with gossip in the way Mrs. Murry handles it.

### Essay Topic 5

Write a critique of *A Wrinkle in Time*, pointing out, what you consider, its strong points and its weaknesses. Consider writing style, vocabulary, and use of metaphor and foreshadowing. Conclude with your recommendation for reading the novel.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Assignment:**

*Phantom of the Opera* - Gaston Leroux

### **Essay Topic 1**

The title of the book *The Phantom of the Opera* uses the term "phantom," which does not appear anywhere else in the book. What are the possible meanings of this title? Why might Leroux have chosen the word "Phantom" to describe Erik rather than something else? Tie in examples and details from the novel to support your idea(s).

### **Essay Topic 2**

Christine seems to be trapped throughout the book. What choices were available to her? To what extent are her misfortunes her own fault? Support your argument(s) with concrete and specific evidence from the novel.

### **Essay Topic 3**

In the book, Christine believes in the Angel of Music. What is the significance of this in the context of Erik's actions? Give concrete and specific examples to illustrate her reactions and explore their significance.

### **Essay Topic 4**

The relationship between Christine and Raoul is complex. What are Raoul's dominant characteristics? How do these support or go against characteristics prevalent in the society of the Opera House? Finally, what (in your opinion) is Raoul's fate? Use examples from the novel to support your argument(s).

### **Essay Topic 5**

Erik finds comfort through his relationship with Christine. How is Erik characterized? How does he transform? Compare/contrast him with the character of Raoul. Once again, remember to use specific details and examples from the novel to support your argument(s).

Have a great summer!

See you next year!