

## Rolling Hills Country Day School Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignments

Books open new worlds and take readers on fantastic adventures. They let imaginations fly beyond reality, expand knowledge, develop a writer's style, and increase vocabulary. All eighth grade students are required to read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Please complete the assignment on the back of this page for *Of Mice and Men*. (You do not have to write about *The Book Thief*.)

Before you begin reading, peruse the assignment so you will know what to focus on as you read. If you own your own copy, you may want to highlight passages that deal with setting, character, plot, and theme. It is also helpful to make notes in the margin. **Your answers should be written in complete sentences that are short and specific.** Please type your assignment. Follow the format on the next page. **Do not write an essay.** Copy the number of the question as well as the topic. **This assignment will be due the first day of class. DOUBLE SPACE and WRITE IN PRESENT TENSE.**

## Summer Reading Writing Assignment

1. **General Comment** - Make a general comment about the book. (Did you enjoy it? Why?)
2. **Setting** - Did the setting have a major effect on the novel? (Consider geographical location and time period.)
3. **Characters** - Describe the main characters. Limit the main characters to three or four. (Consider their personality traits/hero or heroine/antagonist or protagonist.)
4. **Plot** - Define the conflict in terms of person versus person or person versus nature or person versus self. Was the resolution successful or unsuccessful? Why?
5. **Theme** - What is the major idea or lesson a person might remember from the novel? For example- Good triumphs over evil. Use an example from the book to support your answer.
6. **Point of View** -Identify the voice of the novel.  
  
First person participant-only sees what is happening (Uses I)  
  
Third person participant- all knowing narrator (Uses he, she, or it)
7. **Author's Style** - Simple words / Sophisticated word choice / literary devices – give an example of the author's style from the novel.
8. **Recommendation**  
  
Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?