

Incoming Eighth Grade - English Language Arts - Mr. Brendan Moloney
Summer Reading Assignment 2024

Middle School English Language Arts class focuses on developing reading, writing, and grammar skills. To help prepare the students for a more literature based instruction in middle school, they must read **two books** over the summer months and complete an assigned **writing packet**. You may choose to either purchase a **paperback copy** or **iBooks copy** of the novels. Additional assessments will be given during the **first full week of school in September**.

Incoming Eighth Grade:

Mandatory Reading:

1. That Was Then, This Is Now by S. E. Hinton
2. Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz

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Directions: Students must complete a Literary Analysis Essay activity on mandatory **book #1** and the Clever Connector activity on mandatory **book #2**. Please complete each activity on loose leaf paper with the proper school heading.

Literary Analysis Essay

- Compare and contrast the various families and familial networks that influence ***That was Then, This is Now***. How do they bring people together, but also form boundaries? Pick three examples from the following: the Jennings, the Carlsons, the Shepards, and the hippie commune. The essay must be five paragraphs: introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Include one direct quote in each paragraph as evidence.

Clever Connector

Your job is to find connections between the book and something else. The three main types of connections are:

- **Text-to-Text Connections:** Sometimes a story will make you think of another book, article, informational text, or primary source that you have read or heard about.
- **Text-to-Self Connections:** Sometimes a story will remind you about something that happened in your own life such as a birthday party, a vacation, a pet, a school event, etc. Sometimes, the text-to-self connection is about an event that happened in someone else's life such as an aunt, a friend, your pet, etc.
- **Text-to-World Connections:** Sometimes a story will make you think about something that is happening or has happened in the world.

Task Requirements: You will write a 5-7 sentence paragraph for each connection.