

## 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Summer Reading

Dear Parents,

Students are encouraged to read at least 30 minutes a day over the summer. Please fill out the reading log and turn in with your typed essay. This will be due at the beginning of the school year. Future 8th graders will be reading The Crusader King by Susan Peek, and the 7th graders will be reading Saint Cloud of Gaul also by Susan Peek. Future 6th graders will be reading The Lion the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. 7th and 8th grade books will be sent home with each student. 6th grade books will be provided upon request.

After reading these texts, students should complete a 5 paragraph book report. The format for this report is below.

### **Heading, Title, and General Format**

Include your name, the class, the assignment, and due date as shown below. Include your last name and page number in the upper right corner of the page (in the header space). Create a title for your essay (not the title of the book you read) and center it above your introduction; it should not be underlined or italicized. Use double space and a legible 12 point font, such as Arial or Times New Roman.

### **Introduction (First Paragraph)**

Begin with a catchy opening statement or question. Identify the book's title (properly underlined or italicized), the author, type of work (historical novel; don't just say it's a "book"), genre (look it up!), and major themes. Briefly introduce the main characters and describe the setting. If you wish, you may also include other works written by the same author and any important details about the author's background. The last sentence of this paragraph **MUST** be a thesis statement or argument that previews the ideas you will be writing about in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Be sure that there is a direct connection between this statement and the topic sentence of each body paragraph.

### **Synopsis (Second Paragraph)**

Begin this paragraph with the book's main idea in a single sentence. Go on to present a complete (but brief) summary of the book in one paragraph. This is a brief sketch of what happens: the beginning, the middle, and the end. Think about the major conflict, the events leading up to the climax, the resolution, and any plot twists or cliffhangers. Avoid excessive detail- keep it brief!

### **Observations (Third and Fourth Paragraphs)**

In each of these two paragraphs, narrow the discussion to a significant topic. Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence that makes an observation about a specific part of the book: a character, a feature of the plot, an element of style, or a theme. Support your opinion with examples and details from the book. **Include at least one relevant quote from the book in each of these paragraphs and note the page number it came from.** End each paragraph with a wrap-up sentence that ties your examples and details together in support of your topic sentence; show how they add to the main point. The paragraph that makes the most important point should be the fourth one, right before your conclusion.

### **Conclusion (Fifth Paragraph)**

Begin this paragraph with your reaction to this work and your response to it as a reader- state whether you agree or disagree with any lessons it tries to teach you, or if you believe it is worthy of being recommended to others. Avoid writing opinion statements such as "I think," "I feel," or "In my opinion." Be confident in your argument! Go on to integrate themes or a summary of your three body paragraphs and relate them to the title of your essay. End with a thoughtful closing statement that wraps up the whole report.

