



Rising 8th Grade English Summer Reading

Milton Academy Middle School, 2017-2018

Purposes of Summer Reading:

Having a summer reading program allows us to achieve several goals. Firstly, structured summer reading helps minimize skills reduction during the summer months. Secondly, having shared texts to start the year will allow our classes to begin focused and tackle targeted skills immediately. Thirdly, in the words of Mark Twain, “The [person] who *does not* read has no advantage over the [person] who *cannot* read.”

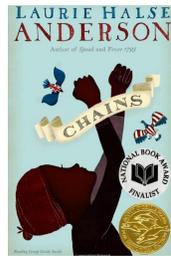
Summer Reading Required Texts:



Animal Farm by George Orwell
ISBN: 978-0451526342

guiding questions include:

- What are potential dangers and benefits of conformity?
- What makes for effective leadership? decision-making?
- How does language impact us?



Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
ISBN: 978-1416905868

guiding questions include:

- What are the moral requirements of citizens?
- When is disobedience acceptable?
- What social forces are most important?

Suggestions During Reading:

- Mark important passages worthy of future discussion
- Annotate in a manner that will help you discuss and write about the text
- Consider writing brief chapter summaries for complex chapters
- Use the inside covers for tracking patterns, themes, characters and ongoing questions

Assignments:

In addition to reading both required texts, complete the following assignments. Assignments will be submitted to your English teacher on the first day of classes.

for Animal Farm:

Create an alternate, thematic title. Create an alternate book cover, complete with alternate title, symbolic original images and intentional design. It is not acceptable to use an image that already exists. Write 1 paragraph explaining the choices you made.

for Chains:

Create a collection of what you find to be the 5 most engaging passages in the novel. For each selected passage, explain why you selected it and what you think is significant about the passage.