

REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR EIGHTH GRADE

Over the summer your child will be required to read *The Hobbit* and complete the attached reading guide. **This reading guide will be turned in on the first day of school to your child's literature teacher and will be used as his/her first grade of the year.** In order to complete this assignment, it is important that your child reads every day.

MANDATORY READING:

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

While reading this book, please complete the attached reading guide and return it on the first day of the new school year.

This book may be checked out of local libraries or purchased from bookstores. If you have trouble locating the book, please call the school office.

Reading Guide for *The Hobbit*

Novel Title: _____

Author: _____

Number of Pages: _____

Date reading was completed: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer the following questions below. When the question calls for a sentence or paragraph, please use complete sentences, correct grammar and proper punctuation. You may use another sheet of paper for your answers or you may answer them on this form.

A. Main Character _____

What is the conflict in the novel?

What does the main character want?

B. Rising and Falling Action

Explain the **rising action**. (What steps does the main character take to get what he/she wants: (actions))

Explain the **falling action**. Is the main character static or dynamic? What does he/she learn about others and the world?

C. What is the theme of this novel? What lesson does the author want you to learn? Cite specific examples and/or use page numbers to explain your answer.

Theme: _____

Lesson: _____

Cite Evidence: _____

D. Using a separate sheet of paper, write three to five paragraphs summarizing the book. (Be sure to use complete sentences, correct grammar, proper punctuation.)

E. Make your own connection to the character, setting, theme OR conflict:

1. _____ happened in the book.

2. _____ happened to me. (Describe)

3. What is the connection between the two?

F. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

Key Literature Elements to Know:

1. **Conflict:** Conflict is the struggle between two opposing forces, or a problem that must be solved.
2. **Rising Action:** In the rising action, a series of events build toward the point of greatest interest.
3. **Falling Action:** Falling action is made up of the events after the climax (most intense part of the story) of a story that wraps up the plot and leads to resolution (end).
4. **Theme:** the subject of the novel or piece of literature.
5. **Static Character:** is one that does not undergo important change in the course of the story, remaining essentially the same at the end as he or she was at the beginning.
6. **Dynamic Character:** one that does undergo an important change in the course of the story.