

Summer Reading | English 8A | Summer 2025

Instructions:

Please pick a book off the list below and read it over the summer. While reading, **you will need to keep a Literary Journal.** You will need to get a composition book. It doesn't have to be the standard black-and-white one, but it does need to be a bound notebook with lined paper. You can decorate the covers, if you like!

The point of Literary Journaling is simply to interact with the book. As you read, take notes on what the book is making you feel, how you are/are not connected to this or that character, what you're visualizing in your brain, any literary elements you notice, notes about the author's style/choices, look up words that you do not know, etc.

While there are some rules you'll need to follow, there are no limits. You can paint in this journal, you can draw pictures, you can type your entries and print and tape them in your journal. You can write in pen, marker, pencil, or crayon - it is all up to you!

You will need to do at least 1 journal entry per week of the summer, beginning on June 2nd and ending on August 1st, for a total of 9 journal entries. This will be due on August 13, 2025. You must also have finished reading the book by this date. You may do more than 9 entries, if you're having fun (this is supposed to be fun!!!), but 9 is the minimum. Please do not leave this until the weekend before school starts. If you do, you will struggle. This is a lot of work! That's why I've planned it this way: Doing an entry per week is not too much... But doing nine entries in one weekend? That's a lot!

On the first page of your journal, please create some sort of fun **title page**. Be creative! **On this page, you must include:** the title of the book (underlined; it's a book title!!), the author's name, how many pages are in the book, and 1-2 sentences about what made you pick this book. Also, put your **name in the top left corner of the inside front cover.**

Each journal entry must be AT LEAST one (1) full page of your composition notebook. Each journal entry must have SOME writing, even if you are painting/drawing. **On the top line of the page, write the**

date and the topic. Directly below this, write the pages you read of your book that week (for example: 9-42).

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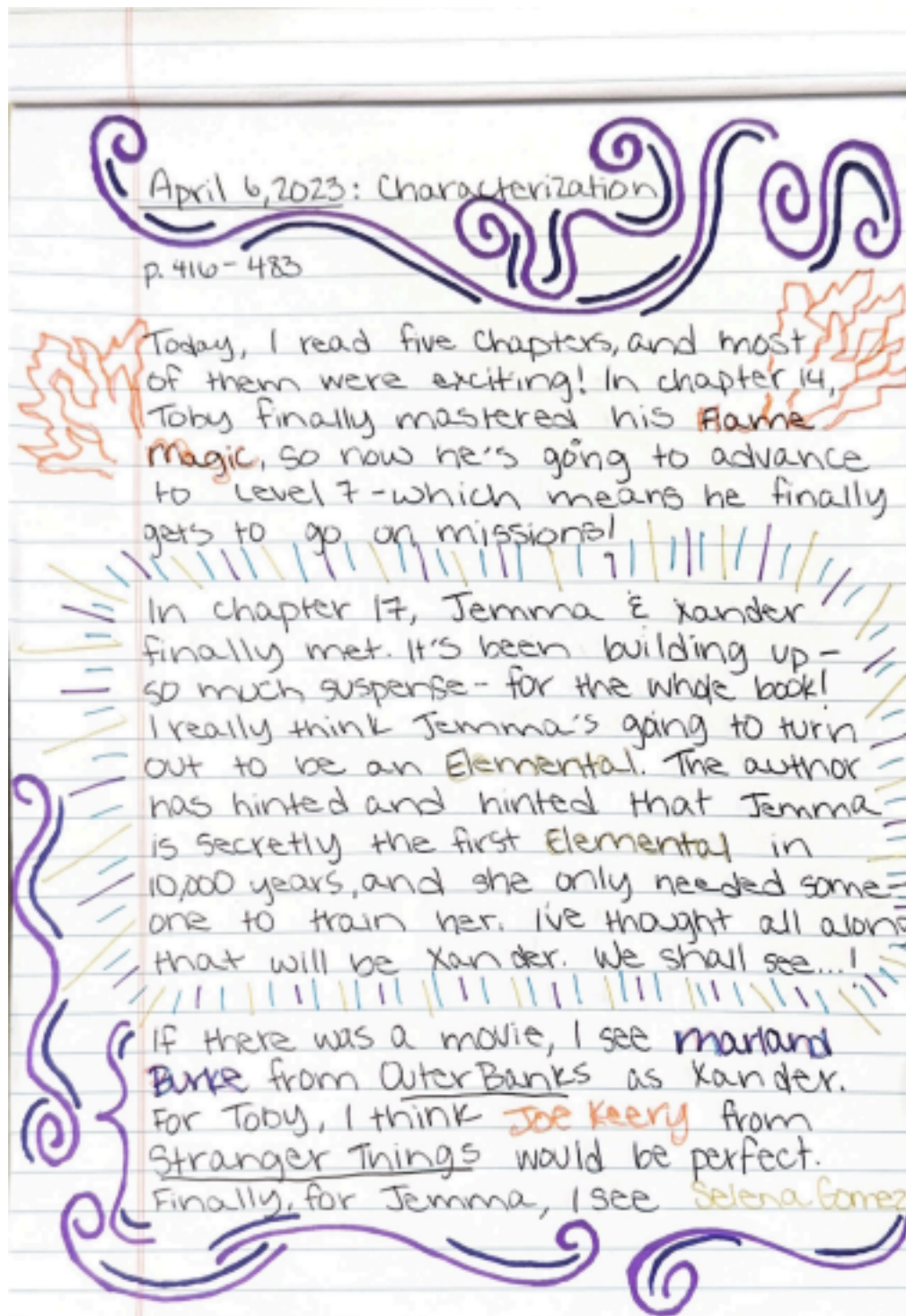
The following is a list of 9 topics. It doesn't matter WHEN you complete each one, but you will need to do one topic a week:

- **THEME:** Journal about your thoughts, what the theme(s) is/are, how do you know, what elements of literature does the author use to build the theme, etc.
- **CHARACTERS:** Journal about your reactions to the characters, how they relate to each other, how they're characterized, how you're seeing them in your head, etc.
- **PLOT:** Journal about how the author builds the plot, what stage of the story are you in currently, is the plot engaging to you as a reader and why/why not
- **SETTING:** Journal about what the setting is, do you think it works for this story, how are you visualizing it, is it real/fictional, etc. Remember that setting is not just place, but time, too!
- **ALLUSIONS:** Look back on what you've read so far and note any and all allusions the author makes to other books, historical events, real people, quotes, places, things, etc. If there aren't any, note that, too, and journal about why that may be! If there are allusions- Google them! Learn something new.
- **NOVEL CONTEXT:** Take some time to Google the author - When did they write this? How old were they? What inspired them? Did they have to do a lot of research? Is This Story completely fictional, or is it based on something in history? Something in the author's own life?
- **GENRE:** Journal about the story's genre, do you think it could fit into more than one genre, or is it very clearly only one? What in the story makes you think so? Incorporate elements of literature and style into this entry
- **RELATED NOVELS:** Is this story similar to anything you've read before? Anything you've watched, or experienced? Or is it completely brand-new to you? What in the story is familiar and strange? How do YOU relate to the story? If you don't relate in ANY way - journal about why that is.
- **UNFAMILIAR WORDS:** Look up words that you have seen in this book that you are unfamiliar with/do not

know and provide me with the word and its definition. You need to have more than 5 words because remember your entries must take up the whole page. :)

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Example Journal Entry



Book List:

Students will need to choose one book off of this list to read and complete the accompanying summer reading project.

- Coraline, Neil Gaiman
- Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë (Everyone Can Be a Reader (Classics) Version. ISBN: **1454954833**)
- The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events Book 1), Lemony Snicket

Parents,

Please note that the adaptation of the novel Wuthering Heights this is mentioned is a revised version of the novel that was intentionally written for middle schoolers.