



June 2017

Dear Incoming 8th Grade Student,

We look forward to you being enrolled next year in Calvary Academy middle school. All students at Calvary Academy from grades 6 through grade 12 are responsible to complete **two book readings** during the summer. For your first book, you will be reading **Tales of Greek Heroes** by Roger Lancelyn Greene over the summer and writing an essay during the first full week of Language Arts class.

Also this summer, for the second book, students will have a choice of the following selections:

8th Grade: 1 Girls Choices (select one from this genre of Historical Fiction/Nonfiction): *

- a. Before We Were Free * Julia Alvarez
- b. Between Shades of Gray * Rupa Sepetey
- c. any novel by Anne Rinaldi *
- d. Any book from Royal Diaries series *
- e. or, Choose 1 of these books listed from the Dear America series *
(Summer project requirements for this can be found on the website under Forms and Resources/Required Reading)

Dear America series 5 options:

- 1. Look to the Hills: The Diary of Lozette Moreau, a French Slave Girl; or
- 2. With the Might of Angels: The Diary of Dawnie Rae Johnson, Hadley, Virginia, 1954; or
- 3. Color Me Dark: The Diary of Nellie Lee Love, the Great Migration North, Chicago, Illinois, 1919; or
- 4. A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl, Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859; or
- 5. I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl, Mars Bluff, South Carolina, 1865

1 Boys Choices (select one from this genre of Historical Fiction/Nonfiction) : *

- a. Jumping Off to Freedom * Anilu Bernardo
- b. Year of Impossible Goodbyes * Sook Nyul Choi
- c. or, Choose 1 of these books listed from the My Name is America Series *
(Summer project requirements for this can be found on the website under Forms and Resources/Required Reading)

My Name is America series 3 options:

- 1. The journal of Ben Uchida: Citizen 13559 Mirror Lake Internment Camp; or
- 2. The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung a Chinese Miner, California, 1852-by Laurence Yep; or
- 3. Down to the Last Out: The Journal of Biddy Owens, The Negro Leagues, Birmingham, Alabama, 1948

Upon completion of reading your choice of your second book, please prepare a 5 paragraph Critical Book Review. Details and requirements of the Critical Book Review are attached and this essay must be in MLA format. Please include parenthetical citations in your paper and attach a Works Cited page. This Critical Book Review is due on **Friday, September 8, 2017.**

Have a blessed summer.

In His Service,

Stephanie Cruz

Critical Book Review Grade 8

A **critical book review** is a discussion and evaluation of the content of a literary selection. The essay must be written in a **five-paragraph** essay format. The structure of the five-paragraph essay is as follows:

1. **Introduction:** The introductory paragraph should contain the book's title, author, and genre. Some important information about the author as it relates to the book must be provided. Include a very brief statement about the plot- just to create interest. The introduction must be at least 5-7 sentences.
2. **Body Paragraph 1:** Identify the setting (time and place) of the book and briefly summarize the plot. Paragraph must be 7-10 sentences.
3. **Body Paragraph 2:** Analyze the main character: Describe the main character and discuss two major internal conflicts that the main character faced and how they were resolved. Did he change in the process? Provide details from the text to support your analysis. Paragraph must 7-10 sentences.
4. **Body Paragraph 3:** What is the theme of the novel? What type of theme is it-Is it stated, implied, global? Use at least 3 examples from the text to support your analysis. Paragraph must be 7-10 sentences.
5. **Conclusion:** Personal recommendation- would you recommend this book to other teens, why or why not? (use literary terms-plot development, characters, conflict, etc) What was your favorite part and why? Which character did you love the best and why? What did you learn from the book? What biblical application can be made? Paragraph must be 7-10 sentences.

Notes:

- Length is **275-300 typed words, double-spaced**, using **12-point font** in **Times New Roman** or **Arial**.
- **Rules of formal writing** should be followed. First person point of view should only be used in the conclusion. Absolutely no second person.
- M.L.A. format must be followed.
 - **One-inch margins** on all sides.
 - Last name and page number **½ inch down in upper-right corner** (Smith 1)
 - Name, Teacher, Class, Date **one inch down in upper-left corner** (double-spaced)
 - Title required (**centered**, not underlined, bold or italics)
 - **Double-spaced** throughout
- Remember to include the **exact number of words** at the end of your paper.
- Include parenthetical citations and a Works Cited Page
- Include the appropriate following sentence at the end of your paper, along with your signature:
 - I have/have not completely read (book title) during this marking period.
 - I have/have not copied material from the Internet or from someone else to complete this paper.
 - Signed: _____
- If you do not finish the book or if you do not include these sentences with your signature at the end of your paper, you will receive a **15% grade deduction** in your paper.