

JMA Summer Reading 2013--for rising 8th Graders

Exploring the Globe through Fiction

During the summer of 2013, every JMA rising 8th grader will learn about life in a different part of the globe through fiction. There are five steps to completing this project:

- 1) Pick a novel that portrays life in another country: With the help of a parent or adult, pick a novel that portrays life in another country. You want something that will hold your interest and will challenge you. You want it to be a novel you will enjoy. Here are a few suggestions you can check out: *Keeping Corner*, *Bamboo People*, *Wanting More*, and *A Long Walk to Water*. If you need additional suggestions for novels that have a global perspective, visit the JMA summer reading page at: <http://j.mp/jmasummerread>
- 2) Read your novel.
- 3) Complete the novel response on the other side of this sheet.
- 4) Share your discoveries – After you finish reading the novel, choose ONE of the following activities and complete it thoughtfully.
 - a. Written Response to Literature: Write a letter to one of the characters in the novel. In your letter, discuss what you learned about that character's life, country and culture. In your letter, be sure to discuss the following topics:
 - i. Major events in the novel that impacted the character and how you responded to them
 - ii. What you learned about the character's day-to-day life in his/her country
 - iii. What you learned about the character's culture – unique customs, values, special traditions, etc.
 - iv. What you learned about the problems and challenges faced by the character in his/her country
 - v. Questions you'd like to ask your character about his/her life and his/her countryYour letter should have a beginning, multiple body paragraphs, and an ending. It should be typed or neatly hand-written. Proof read carefully before turning it in.
 - b. Visual Response to Literature: Create a visual that shows what you learned about the culture portrayed in the novel. Your visual can be a drawing, a collage, or a chart. Your visual must include information about the following:
 - i. Daily life in the culture/country portrayed in the novel
 - ii. The unique customs, traditions and values of the culture/country portrayed in the novel
 - iii. The unique challenges faced by characters in the novel because of their culture/countryAfter creating your visual, write an explanation of what you included in your visual and why.
- 5) Share your project with your classmates and your Language Arts teacher. The Summer Reading projects will be due on Monday, September 16th. (For extra credit, turn your project in the first week of school).

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS DURING THE SUMMER, EMAIL MS. KENDRICK @ mary.kendrick@cms.k12.nc.us.

This assignment will also be posted on the JMA website.