

## Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Future Eighth Graders and Parents,

Learning is a year-round endeavor, and summer vacation presents a unique opportunity to catch up on reading for personal enjoyment.

To assist students in reaching the goal of becoming active readers, I have assembled a summer reading list. Students are required to read **two** novels and complete all assignments for each novel.

This year, there is **one required text** for future 8th graders. All students must read:

● ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James Swanson**

● **The second novel is the student's choice.**

I have compiled a list of other choice books that might be interesting to read; these choice books are NOT mandatory, but just a list of other books that might be appealing.

- *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park
- *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry
- *Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan
- *Witness* by Karen Hesse
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers
- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *A Series of Unfortunate Events* By Lemony Snicket (SERIES)

**All summer reading assignments must be turned in on the first day of school.**

**Happy Reading!**

-Mrs. Pantuliano

Name\_\_\_\_\_

ELA 8 Summer Reading- *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Due: the first day of school

Task: Respond to each of the following questions in complete sentences. Please be sure to proofread your work for spelling and grammatical mistakes. You may either type or neatly handwrite these questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. How did the events leading up to the fall of Richmond and the surrender of Robert E. Lee become the catalysts of John Wilkes Booth's assassination plot? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question (Prologue).
2. What is the significance of a person of Booth's stature being a presidential assassin? What would be its equivalent in the present-day? Use text information and your own interpretation to answer the question (Chapter 1).
3. How did the previous failures to kidnap President Lincoln affect Booth? Why did these plans fail, and what was the irony in these failures? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question (Chapter 1).
4. Why was Booth allowed to gain entrance into the Presidential Box so easily at Ford's Theater? How is this different from today's presidential security? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the questions. (Chapter 2).
5. What factors saved William Seward from being murdered by Lewis Powell? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question. (Chapter 3).
6. Compare and contrast how history views actors John Wilkes Booth and Laura Keane. How did both of these people make history for very different reasons? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question. (Chapter 4).
7. Was Dr. Samuel Mudd doing his duty as a doctor or do you believe he was aiding and abetting the presidential assassin? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question. (Chapter 5).
8. Why did Edwin Stanton feel it was appropriate to give Mary Jane Welles, the wife of the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, a lock of Lincoln's hair? Do you think this was appropriate? Why or why not? Use text information and your own interpretation to answer the question (Chapter 6).

9. How did Thomas Jones thwart the manhunt for John Wilkes Booth? What was his main motivation for helping Booth and Herold? How did this plan also leave them vulnerable? Use text information and your own interpretation to answer the question (Chapter 7).
10. Explain the reasons Mary Surrat did not betray John Wilkes Booth. Why, then, did she deny knowing Lewis Powell? Use text information and your own interpretation to answer the question (Chapter 8).
11. Why was Booth dismayed at the press coverage of Lincoln's assassination? How did he think the public and the press would feel about his act? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question (Chapter 9).
12. Why wasn't Thomas Jones brought to justice for his role in Booth's escape? What was Jones' motivation for telling the story when he did? Use text information and your own interpretation to answer the question (Chapter 10).
13. How did Colonel Lafayette Baker's hubris (look it up!) and self-promotion actually aid the manhunt for Booth? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question (Chapter 11).
14. How do we know that money, greed, and fame were large motivating factors in the capture of John Wilkes Booth? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the questions (Chapter 12-13).
15. How do you think the conspirators were treated during their imprisonment leading up to their executions? What clues lead you to this conclusion? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer this question (Chapter 14).
16. Why does the author think that Booth was a failure? It is true that he did assassinate President Abraham Lincoln, but what did he hope to accomplish? Did Booth himself see this disappointment before he died? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question (Epilogue).

## 8th Grade Assignment for Free Choice Novel

**Due: the first day of school**

### Summer Reading Project One-Pager

**Task:** In order to demonstrate comprehension of your summer reading, you will create a one-pager. A "one-pager" is designed to promote thoughtful understanding of a novel. The more creative you allow yourself to be, the more you will get out of this assignment. One-pagers, when done well, also provide a terrific review that can inspire others to read your book.

**\*Please use a piece of white computer paper\***

The FRONT of your one-pager must include:

- ❖ Title of novel and author's name displayed creatively (it should stand out)
- ❖ A border that reflects something significant about the novel (the theme, character traits, symbols, the setting, etc.)
- ❖ 2 important quotations
  - Include a citation for each (author's last name pg. number)
    - Ex: "Jem suddenly grinned at him" (Lee 30)
  - If your passage is part of dialogue, include the character's name who said it
    - Ex: "'Thank you, darlings'" - Miss Caroline (Lee 37)
  - A response to each quotation explaining why it is significant- a few sentences
- ❖ At least 3 **hand drawn images** that represent themes, conflicts, symbols, settings, or characters in the book

❖ A 5-7 sentence personal response to the text - draw a connection, make an interpretation, or write a thoughtful review – this is NOT a summary

The BACK of your one-pager must include:

- ❖ A one paragraph summary of the text that includes details about the plot, setting, characters, problem(s), and ending
- ❖ Your name and grade

Things to Remember:

- ❖ Images and writing should cover the ENTIRE PAGE. Very little background area should be visible
  - ❖ Use unlined, white, 8 ½ x 11 paper (computer paper)
  - ❖ Your name and grade go on the BACK
- ❖ Be purposeful about the arrangement of your one-pager. For example, have a reason for using a certain color ( write a character's dialogue in green because green is that character's favorite color, for example) or placing an illustration in a certain place

# UGLIES

Scott Westerfeld

Objective Summary

In the book "Uglies" by Scott Westerfeld, a dystopian society is shown where teenagers are surgically altered to become "pretty" in the society. The story follows Lissy, a girl who is part of the "Uglies" and is about to undergo her transformation. The book explores themes of identity, conformity, and the pressure to fit in.

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#### QUOTES

**Quotes**

"I don't want to be pretty. I want to be me." - Lissy

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# TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR

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