



8th Grade Summer Reading List

All 8th grade English students at Berean Christian School are expected to complete a summer reading assignment.

Reading over the summer will help each student improve vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills that will make all studies more beneficial to academic achievement. The summer reading/writing assignments for all students will be **due as follows: Objective quiz over the selected book will be on Friday, August 10, 2018. The writing assignment based on the SAME book will be due on Tuesday, August 21, 2018.** Students **will** be expected to turn in the written work as a hard copy **AND** upload the assignment(s) to turnitin.com (instructions for uploading the assignment(s) will be given the first week of school, so please just save your work on a memory stick until then).

I. Summer Reading Choices

Choose **one** of the following books to read and then complete the writing assignment explained below; this assignment will be due **Tuesday, August 21st** for a quiz grade, and will then be used as the basis of a writing assignment that will count as a test grade later in the quarter. An objective quiz on the book will be given in class on **Friday, August 10th**.

1. *The Hiding Place* – by Corrie Ten Boom
2. *The River* – by Gary Paulsen
3. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*– By Mildred Taylor

II. Writing Assignment:

For the book you choose to read, choose THREE lessons about life that are evident within the book. As you identify and record **3** significant life lessons, **be sure to follow the analysis format indicated below very carefully to receive full credit.** These life lessons should be clearly evident and will need quotes to showcase and explain the lesson to be observed throughout the book. Record the quotes and your analysis of them using the format explained below. **Be sure to follow the analysis format in step 4 very carefully to receive full credit.**

Writing Assignment Directions

1. Set up your page using MLA format and title it “Life lesson Journal for _____” (fill in the blank with your chosen book name).
2. Under the title create a two-column table.
3. In the left column type the quotes and their in-text citations (the author’s last name and the page number on which the quote is found).
4. In the right column type out your analysis of the quote; you should **NOT just** sum the quote up. Instead, explain **a) what is going on briefly** (2-3 sentences), **b) what it shows about the life lesson** (2-3 sentences) and **c) why that is important to the story** (1 sentence), for a total of 5-7 sentences of your personal analysis per quote.
5. Complete a Works Cited page with the corrected Works Cited information from the edition of the book you used.

Note: It may be best to put sticky notes in the book as you read and find quotes you think are important and then do the assignment when you are finished, picking the 3 best examples.

Writing Assignment Example:

Student 1

Sample Student

Mrs. Stegall

English 8

15 August 2017

Life Lessons Journal for Hatchet

<p>“...he would not let death in again” (Paulsen 117).</p>	<p>Brian is alone in the wilderness for 5 days before he finally hears a rescue plane, only for it to turn around before it gets to him. The plane turns around and does not see Brian or his smoke signals. This event causes Brian to lose all hope and sink into a deep state of depression where he no longer wants to live because he feels no one will ever find him. The next morning Brian wakes up a changed person. He is angry at himself for allowing himself to sink as low as he did. Brian thinks this quote after he realizes that his life is worth something, and the he alone is the only one that can change that. The life lesson is a 13 year old boy looking past his family circumstances, his current state of emergency, and realizing that he can't blame anyone else for the situation that he is currently in at the moment. At this point Brian “grows-up” and takes his life as something that is important and decides to continue to survive because he can.</p>
<p>“Mistakes. In his mental journal he listed them to tell his father...” (Paulsen 118).</p>	<p>Brian is a city boy, and he is not familiar with the wilderness. He is left alone to fend for himself which proves to much harder than he anticipated. After not being rescued for over a month Brian now realizes he must figure things out for himself. Brian's ability to persevere and keep pushing on is a life lesson that is evident throughout the story. Brian has many failures or setbacks such as: a concussion (28), a run-in with a porcupine (75), failed attempts at making a fire (82), a bow and arrow that almost blinded him (117), failed fishing attempts (105), and a run-in with a skunk (123). These are examples when Brian could have given up, but he was determined to keep trying. In this quote Brian thinks about how he will tell his dad about all of the things he tried, but did not work out. He is not ashamed of his failures, but he embraces them as a new found hope for when he is reunited with his dad.</p>

PARENTS AND STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:

- As a Christian, a person may wonder, “Should Christians study the classics of literature?” Christians should be aware that man’s writings reflect his inner thoughts. This can be seen throughout a study of literature and the authors’ lives. If we look at secular literature (classics) through discerning eyes, our own faith and testimony can be strengthened. The selections chosen for the reading list are either classic in nature or carry strong literary merit. Berean Christian School cannot be responsible for all content in every selection.
- Please be advised: copied, summarized, or paraphrased information from an internet source or any other source is unacceptable. THIS IS PLAGIARISM! Be sure to correctly document sources that are used and use your own thoughts based on what you have learned to complete ANY writing assignment. Common knowledge and your own thoughts do NOT need to be documented.

The following are short summaries of each book. Summaries were taken from Lexile.com and Good Reads. Each description will list the Lexile score.

1. *The Hiding Place* – By Corrie Ten Boom (900L) Historical

“At one time Corrie ten Boom would have laughed at the Idea that there would ever be a story to tell. For the first fifty years of her life nothing at all out of the ordinary had ever happened to her. She was an old-maid watchmaker living contentedly with her spinster sister and their elderly father in the tiny Dutch house over their shop. Their uneventful days, as regulated as their own watches, revolved around their abiding love for one another. However, with the Nazi invasion and occupation of Holland, a story did ensue. Corrie ten Boom and her family became leaders in the Dutch Underground, hiding Jewish people in their home in a specially built room and aiding their escape from the Nazis.” (Good Reads)

2. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*– By Mildred Taylor (920L) Historical Fiction

“Why is the land so important to Cassie's family? It takes the events of one turbulent year—the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she's black—to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logan’s their courage and pride—no matter how others may degrade them, the Logan’s possess something no one can take away.” (Good Reads)

3. *The River* – By Gary Paulsen (960L) Fiction (This book is the second book after *Hatchet* that was read in class in 7th grade.)

"We want you to do it again." These words, spoken to Brian Robeson, will change his life. Two years earlier, Brian was stranded alone in the wilderness for fifty-four days with nothing but a small hatchet. Yet he survived. Now the government wants him to do it again--to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept Brian alive. This time he won't be alone: Derek Holtzer, a government psychologist, will accompany him to observe and take notes. But during a freak storm, Derek is hit by lightning and falls into a coma. Their radio transmitter is dead. Brian is afraid that Derek will die of dehydration unless he can get him to a doctor. His only hope is to build a raft and try to transport Derek a hundred miles down the river to a trading post--if the map he has is accurate.